



Your Canterbury

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Issue no 236

'Don't send me off to Portugal for unfair hearing'

By Ed Hill

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

A CANTERBURY man who has been served with a European Arrest Warrant (EAW) for an alleged crime in Portugal could be tried in his absence.

Graham Mitchell was served with the EAW last month for attempted murder by the Portuguese authorities.

Judges have now set the new trial date for April 23.

Mr Mitchell, 49, was originally acquitted of the charge in 1995, with another British man, Warren Tozer, after a German tourist Andre Jorling fell from a 12ft high wall, leaving him paralysed from the waist down. He spent ten months in jail but no charges

were brought against him and he was acquitted by the judge when it came to court.

However, Portuguese prosecutors now say the decision was overturned a year later and a new arrest warrant was issued – but this was never acted on.

Mr Mitchell has said he will not attend the retrial. He is fighting the extradition request in the UK courts. He has argued he would not receive a fair trial without his co-defendant also being present. Mr Tozer is thought to be living in Australia.

Jago Russell from Fair Trials International said: "It would be wrong to extradite Graham so many years after he was cleared."



Globe trotting tenor Mark Padmore will be performing at Canterbury Cathedral this month to help raise funds for the building's restoration. For full story see below

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TRAVEL

Bus to link us with coast

A NEW bus route between Canterbury and Deal has been introduced by Stagecoach.

The journey time will be 45 minutes. The number 12 route will offer a bus every hour during the daytime. Travellers using an explorer day ticket can travel for £5.80 per day or £19 for a weekly ticket.

WAR

Learn about past conflicts

A CONFERENCE looking at the history of warfare in Kent will take place at Canterbury Christ Church University from April 20-22.

It coincides with the millennial anniversary of the sacking of Canterbury in 1012 by the Vikings. For more details visit: www.canterbury.ac.uk/events

ENTERTAINMENT

Opera star set to come home for one-off cathedral show

AN internationally renowned tenor who grew up in Canterbury is returning to his home town.

Mark Padmore is now a major name in opera. He has performed on stages around the world including America, Italy, Germany and Japan and at the Royal Opera House in Covent Garden and English National Opera.

He has also appeared on TV and ra-

dio and made many recordings for classical record labels.

The former Simon Langton student will be performing a concert at Canterbury Cathedral in aid of the trust which is raising money for the ancient building's restoration. He will not be paid.

He said: "Having spent my formative years in and around Canterbury and the cathedral I am happy to be able to

give something back and do my bit in helping to conserve it.

"It is always a joy to come home and having the opportunity to perform in such magnificent surroundings makes it all the more special."

The programme for the evening includes Handel's Zadok the Priest; Dixit Dominus and Finzi's Dies Natalis. Mark Padmore will be accompanied by the

English Chamber Orchestra and the Crypt Choir of the King's School, conducted by Howard Ionascu, director of music at the school.

The Choral Classics Concert will be on Saturday April 28, at 7.30pm. Tickets priced £30, £25, £20 and £15 are available from the ticket hotline on 01227 865346 or by emailing tickets@canterburycathedraltrust.org

SUCCESS

Customer service award

CANTERBURY Cathedral Lodge has been given a customer service award by Invicta Chamber of Commerce. It beat off strong competition from other hotels in the county. The lodge, in the grounds of the cathedral, achieved 16 per cent better occupancy rates.

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FICTION

Home is where the book is for comic

By Chris Murphy
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GOOD research is usually vital to produce a cracking book – but comic Julian Clary has gone to amazing lengths for his spooky new detective novel.

He snapped up Noel Coward's former haunted home near Ashford, and then used it to set the scene in his third book, *Briefs Encountered*.

Coward was behind the 1945 film of a similar name, *Brief Encounter*, starring Trevor Howard.

Clary bought the playwright's manor house six years ago and soon decided it would be a fitting venue for a Coward-esque romp as it dates back to the 15th century. He lived there between 1926-56.

Clary's book is a glamorous thriller-romance set in and around his own home.

And there are ghosts, spirits even. Some of them are even a little blithe.

Choosing the house was an obvious decision after friend and now neighbour Paul O'Grady mentioned it was up for sale. It needed work, but Clary said he had enjoyed the challenge.

And then came the idea of basing the new book there, considering the links with ghosts and Coward – it even

features himself as a "horrible mincing" homosexual.

A lifelong fan of Coward, Clary said it was easy to come up with the bizarre and convoluted tale of gay lovers across the generations.

He told KoS: "It is primarily about the house I live in. This was Noel Coward's house and there are two storylines. One is a fictional account of a true story of Noel's time here with his lover Jack Wilson.

"And there is a modern day story about the relationship of an actor called Richard Stent, also set in the same house.

"The two stories alternate and then through ghostly means they come together, if all that makes sense."

He does have some privacy issues with doing the book

based on his own home, and he said: "I don't really want people to come knocking on the door. In one draft I had changed the name of the house but the publisher didn't like that. I changed the name of the village."

He included himself in the book, and asked what his character is like, he said:

"Oh, he's horrible.

"He is the mincing, lispy, D-rated celebrity that I am."

Clary said using another celebrity would have opened a legal can of worms and complications. "I won't be libelling



myself. It is just a comic device," he said.

As for the inspiration for coming up with the book – Clary said after he moved in, it emerged there were four ghosts there. That added to Coward and his wild partying reputation, and he realised the house had some tales to tell.

He said: "I read the letters and diaries of Noel Coward, he bought the house at the time he met Jack Wilson and I realised he had bought it so he could conduct his love affair, which was illegal at the time.

"The house is very isolated, he was very rich, and his wild parties here were legendary.

"He was born in Teddington and I was raised there. I studied him during my education and

did a production of *Private Lives* when I was 21."

He added: "The book is doing really well, and I would like to think people will be buying it on its merits.

"I know it's galling for bona fide authors but I can't do anything about that. I have got to make a living."

STAR TURN:

Julian Clary has launched a ghostly new book, *Briefs Encountered*

NEWS IN BRIEF

➔ Gills policing costs row

FANS may be banned from Gillingham FC's clash against rivals Swindon Town after the council slapped a prohibition notice on the fixture in a row over policing costs. It is an almost identical stand-off to the one that erupted 24 hours before the club's FA Cup clash with Premier League Stoke City earlier this year. Then Gills chairman Paul Scally backed down, but now the row could be set to rumble on with the game not due at Priestfield until April 21.

➔ Cohen Hop Farm show

LEONARD Cohen is to play his only UK show of the year at the Hop Farm in September. Promoter Vince Power, the brains behind the three-day Hop Farm Festival earlier in the summer, announced the Canadian singer-songwriter will perform a three-hour set. The show in Paddock Wood on September 8 forms part of Cohen's world tour. The setlist will include classic songs, rarities and new tracks from his latest best-selling album, *Old Ideas*.

➔ Fountains hit by drought

THE new fountains in Community Square, Gravesend, will not be switched on this summer after a hosepipe ban came into force across the county. Gravesend council said the fountains recycle their water but some is lost through evaporation. Council leader Cllr John Burden said: "As the drought situation begins to bite and is likely to get far worse, we are encouraging everyone in the community to do their best."



CRIME

Inquiry as drunk students start ferry fires and flash travellers

UNIVERSITY heads have launched an investigation into the "disgraceful" behaviour of drunk students who streaked, danced on tables, and set fire to furniture on board a P&O ferry.

The ferry operator was so appalled it banned the students from returning on a P&O ship.

It is understood the students were on their way to Lloret de Mar in Spain.

Staff on the Dover-Calais Spirit of France on April 1 were forced to move other passengers to a secure part of the €180 million ship, which launched in February, after 200 students – from the University of Manchester and Manchester Metropolitan University – ran wild.

The operator said they were "clearly drunk" when they boarded the ship.

A P&O spokeswoman said: "Students from four of the coaches were running around exposing themselves, kicking bottles off tables, setting fire to furniture – it's not acceptable. It was all repairable damage, our main concern was the other passengers. This is not the kind of behaviour you expect on an early crossing."

The incident has been reported to the police.



DISGRACE:

The students ran amok on the Spirit of France ferry

"We are also working with the coach operator and the universities about this so they realise we will not accept this kind of behaviour."

A Manchester Metropolitan spokesman said an internal inquiry had been launched.

"We deplore behaviour of this sort," he said. "We are keen to get to the bottom of it. We want to find out what the students have done and who is going to take responsibility."

The University of Manchester also said an internal inquiry was under way.

"We are in dialogue with P&O and have offered to co-operate to identify students who may have been involved in any criminal activity on this vessel," said a spokesman.

The students returned on Good Friday from Dunkirk with a different ferry operator.

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CRIME

Gang behind bars for 45 years after killing of father during farm burglary

By Ed Hill

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SEVEN men from Kent involved in the death of a farmer while carrying out a burglary at his home have been sentenced to a total of 45 years in jail.

Julian Gardner, 53, was crushed between two cars at his farm in Robertsbridge, Sussex, in October, 2010, when the gang tried to steal spare parts from his farm machinery workshop.

Brothers Marcus Bristow, 32, and Terence Bristow, 42, both of Great Chart near Ashford, were found guilty of manslaughter, conspiracy to commit burglary, and conspiracy to pervert the course of justice. They were each jailed for 11 years.

Lee Delay, 23, from Tunbridge Wells, was found guilty of manslaughter, conspiracy to commit burglary and conspiracy to pervert the course of justice. He was jailed for seven years.

Paul Dunn, 33, from Cranbrook, was also found guilty of manslaughter and conspiracy to commit burglary. He was jailed for seven years.

Christopher Leek, 31, of Cranbrook, was found guilty of conspiracy to commit burglary and conspiracy to pervert the course of justice.

The jury was discharged after failing to reach a verdict on the charge of manslaughter for Leek and the case has been ordered to lay on file. He was jailed for four-and-a-half years.

Oliver Payne, 25, from Tunbridge Wells, was found not guilty of manslaughter but was convicted of conspiracy to commit burglary and conspiracy to pervert the course of justice. He was jailed for three years.

Terrence Dunn, 57, from Sandhurst, was



JAIL: Top, from left, Marcus Bristow, Terence Bristow, Lee Delay and Paul Dunn were found guilty of the manslaughter of Julian Gardner, left, who had been trying to protect his property

found guilty of conspiracy to pervert the course of justice. He was jailed for 18 months.

Mr Gardner was woken by the gang and ran down to tackle them with a shotgun he kept at the farm. After taking thousands of pounds worth of spare parts, the gang then set light to two vehicles involved in Mr Gardner's death, including a Land Rover stolen from the farm.

A Sussex Police spokesman said: "This investigation was not a straightforward one. There were no witnesses and the evidence relied on DNA evidence at the scene and complex telecommunication evidence that had to be gathered by the investigating team."

After the sentencing, Mr Gardner's mother Molly, and sister Anna Murphy, said in a written statement: "Thanks to the justice system, those responsible for this appalling crime have now been found guilty, which as far as we're concerned was the only possible outcome."

"The criminals now convicted appear to have shown no remorse for their actions. All present that night bear responsibility and must live with Julian's death on their conscience forever."

"They know they will eventually be released from their sentence. However, we as Julian's family will never be released from our sorrow."

"Our Julian was above all a good and decent man who worked hard all his life. Before he had the opportunity to sit back and enjoy the results of his lifetime's work, these men who have been convicted felt they had the right to steal all that Julian had worked for but succeeded only in robbing him of his life."

"All those who loved Julian are united in the grief we feel at the loss of this special son, brother, father and friend."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Young arsonists strike

FIREFIGHTERS believe youngsters were responsible for 46 blazes in the first week of the Easter school holidays.

Of 119 grassland and rubbish blazes, 85 are believed to have been started deliberately said Kent Fire and Rescue Service.

It is suspected that children and young people were responsible for more than half of the incidents, although the causes and culprits of a number of fires remain unknown.

Artists win Turner show

SOME 26 young artists from Kent have won the chance to show their work at Turner Contemporary this month. The Page Turner competition, organised by the University for the Creative Arts and the gallery, received more than 300 entries from 40 schools, colleges and universities across the county. The theme of the competition was Determination and Courage, in honour of the Olympic and Paralympic Games. Winning entries go on display on April 21, 22, 28 and 29.

Ban for football job

KITCHEN porter Jordan Brads, 20, has been banned from attending football matches for three years after being found guilty of disorder when Gillingham played Stoke in January.

Brads, of Arden Street, Gillingham was arrested shortly before kick off in the third round FA Cup tie at Priestfield. Brads threw a beer can at the head of a rival supporter and then started swinging punches towards other Stoke fans.

COURT

£1 fine as man dies following pub fall

THE family of a mentally disabled man who fell down a pub cellar hatch and ultimately died, have spoken of their utter despair after the company was fined just £1.

David Gibson said his 52-year-old nephew had a mental age of a youngster, but was left alone in a room at the pub with an open hatch.

Mr Gibson, from Medway, said: "If that had been a child left alone and it died, there would have been uproar."

"But because this is a grown man, it seems no-one is bothered and the company, which no longer exists, is fined just a pound."

"This is a scandal. A man is dead and it looks like everyone has got away with it."

Sevenoaks council prosecuted the owner of the Shoreham pub.

Dickins Bartholomew LLP was the company that ran the Crown, in the High Street, and was taken to court following

the incident on April 29, 2010.

Customer William Eldridge fell almost 8ft through an open cellar hatch in the bar floor.

He broke his leg in the fall. While waiting for his operation Mr Eldridge developed pneumonia and later died.

The council said it was not told of the incident until Mr Eldridge was already critically ill, which is against the law.

Dickins Bartholomew LLP had a duty to report the incident under the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 1995.

The failure of Dickins Bartholomew LLP to report the accident significantly affected the council's ability to carry out an investigation into the incident, the court heard.

Dickins Bartholomew LLP pleaded guilty of failing to report the initial incident under the RIDDOR regulations, at Sevenoaks magistrates' court.

At the time of prosecution

Dickins Bartholomew LLP had already vacated the pub and is winding up the partnership due to significant financial problems.

The council said that in sentencing, the magistrate took into account the partnership was being wound up, had no bank account and no means to pay, case law on sentencing in similar cases where the defendant has no means to pay a fine, as well as an undertaking that the partners will never work in a pub or in management again, as well as their guilty plea.

In light of this the magistrate fined the partnership £1 with a £15 victim surcharge.

But Mr Gibson said: "My nephew is dead and there is a fine of £1. Someone left that door open, and someone left William in that room. Someone should have been taken to court."

"There has been no justice. Words cannot express how angry I am."

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STAR TURN: Emeli Sande will be among the acts to perform at his year's Lounge on the Farm

ENTERTAINMENT

Tighter security measures ensure Lounge festival wins new licence

By Ed Hill

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LOUNGE on the Farm music festival organisers have overcome objections to the event to win the go ahead from town hall officials for this summer's festival.

Canterbury City Council's licensing committee on Tuesday decided to renew the licence for the event held at Merton Farm on the outskirts of the city.

Following an increase in complaints last year from neighbouring residents police asked the licensing committee to reconsider the event.

Organisers decided to withdraw their existing licence so they could renew it on an annual basis and iron out the issues which included parking problems in Nackington Road, noise spreading to nearby properties, and the safety of children attending the event.

This year the three-day festival, which has become one of the biggest in the county, will run from Friday, July 6, until Sunday, July 8. Top acts announced so far in-



clude Dexys Midnight Runners, The Charlatans, and Emeli Sande.

A new company called The Event Umbrella has been brought in to help run the festival and deal with the concerns of residents.

The measures include a 24-hour complaint line to deal with issues arising during the festival, a sound management company to regulate PA systems, and a promise to end all music from outside stages at midnight, and 2am for inside stages.

A new security company has also been employed to manage the site. Under-18 tickets can only be purchased by adults with proof of ID. They will also be required to sign a contract when they enter the festival, agreeing to keep an eye on the children they are accompanying.

The organisers are also introducing what they describe as a "wind down schedule" to help manage festival goers leaving the site at the end of the day, and a traffic man-

agement plan has been introduced with advice from Kent Highways, the police and the council.

The licence for the number of people able to attend the event, which is now in its sixth year, will remain at 10,000.

Gus Corcoran from The Event Umbrella said: "The purpose of surrendering the licence was to look to address the problems experienced last year and to work more closely with the authorities to ensure the event is delivered professionally and with minimal disruption to the local authority. We are confident the plans we have put in place will put an end to the disruption."

The changes have also been enough to satisfy police, who dropped their objections.

Canterbury Neighbourhood Inspector Terry Chuter said: "Clearly we will be monitoring the event closely and regular on-site meetings with other responsible authorities will take place before and during the event to ensure the plans are adhered to and a safe and well managed event takes place."

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LAW

Calls to reform 'unfair' extradition treaties as trio suffer at hands of foreign legal systems

By Marijke Cox

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THE thorny issue of extradition and the problems surrounding the treaty between the UK and the US has long sparked debate in Parliament.

A vote was called at the end of last year demanding urgent renegotiation of the agreement and just last month – prompted by high-profile cases including extradited Kent resident Christopher Tappin – David Cameron pressed Barack Obama to address the subject.

Now, in what is seen as a step towards reform, MPs on the Home Affairs Committee have demanded major amendments be made to the 2003 US-UK extradition treaty.

Tory MP for Rochester and Strood Mark Reckless, who sits on the committee, said it was wrong there was such an unbalanced agreement. He said: "Firstly, if the case is more related to the UK than the US a person shouldn't be extradited and they should be given the chance to appear in a British court.

"Secondly, it's easier for the US to extradite someone than the UK. The US only needs to establish probable cause to extradite, but the UK has to find reasonable suspicion.

"There are also issues with the European Arrest Warrant and I'm hoping in 2014 we will come out of this agreement."

Mr Reckless admitted that changes were unlikely to help Mr Tappin, from Orpington, who is accused of conspiring to export batteries for Iranian missiles, something he vehemently denies.

The former Kent Golf Union president was extradited to a Texan jail in February, shackled and kept in isolation. He was refused bail on the grounds of being a "flight risk".

The 65-year-old's family has criticised the way he has been treated and called for the extradition treaty to be examined.

His wife Elaine said: "Shouldn't it be a basic requirement that a proper case be made out against my husband in a UK court before subjecting him to total disruption to his life? Isn't that the cornerstone of British justice?"

While the case of Mr Tappin continues, another – this time concerning the controversial European Arrest Warrant (EAW) – has hit the



LEGAL BATTLES: From left, Garry Mann and Graham Mitchell both suffered under extradition laws. Below, Christopher Tappin is currently behind bars awaiting trial in America

headlines involving Canterbury resident Graham Mitchell.

The EAW is a fast-track system for extraditing people from one European country to another.

MPs have criticised the system, arguing it has led to injustice in many cases where people have been moved around and detained for long periods before a trial.

The 49-year-old former Scots Guardsman was prosecuted for attempted murder while on holiday in Portugal in 1994, after a German tourist suffered serious injuries falling from a 12ft sea wall.

Mr Mitchell, who denied the accusation, was locked up for 10 months with no charges brought and he claimed to have been treated badly, with guards spitting and throwing urine at him.

During his trial in 1995 the victim said he had been involved in an accident and Mr Mitchell and his friend were acquitted. But last month – 17 years later – an EAW was issued for his arrest on the charge of first degree murder; he was arrested by Kent Police and now faces trial in Portugal.

Fair Trials International, which is supporting Mr Mitchell, is fighting for reform of the EAW.

Fair Trials International also helped Garry Mann, from Faversham, who was extradited in 2010 to serve a two-year prison sentence in Portugal imposed following a trial in 2004. This trial was described by a UK court as "so unfair as to be incompatible with his right to a fair trial".

He was tried and convicted of rioting in the Euro 2004 football tournament, but Mr Mann, who protested his innocence, claimed he had no time to prepare a defence and that standards of interpretation were "grossly inadequate".



CRIME

Bakery fined over mouse droppings

MEOPHAM Bakery has been fined £600 with £490 costs for three food hygiene offences following an inspection by Gravesham Borough Council.

The owners of the premises in Wrotham Road, Meopham, pleaded guilty at Dartford Magistrates' Court to the

charges which involved food not being protected against contamination; the food premises were being kept clean and maintained in good repair, and the premises' structural condition did not permit good hygiene practices. Many parts of the premises

and equipment were filthy. There was evidence of poor electrical work and mouse droppings in the storeroom next to flour supplies.

The court heard there was a significant improvement in terms of cleanliness, and that thousands had been spent.

FUNDRAISING

Golfers invited to join charity tournament

GOLFERS have been invited to join a tournament to raise funds for Canterbury Oast Trust on Friday, May 18. It is organised by the Rotary Club of Tenterden and is held at the town's golf club. Entry is £50 per person. The tournament raises funds for the trust, which supports adults with learning disabilities, with money also going to other charities. To book a place contact Mike Miller on 01580 761749 or email mjlmiller@tiscali.co.uk.

DEVELOPMENT

Consultation starts on plans for new homes

ASHFORD residents are being asked for their views on controversial proposals to build new homes at Chilmington Green.

The Chilmington Green Area Action Plan (AAP) proposes the creation of up to 5,750 homes and 1,000 jobs, over 25 years.

Copies of the AAP and supporting documents will be available for inspection between April 16-June 11 at www.ashford.gov.uk/consult.

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ENTERTAINMENT

EastEnders' Heather trots into town as Cinderella's lovely Fairy Godmother

By James Benjamin
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

HER dramatic death sparked a ratings-winning whodunnit in top soap EastEnders, but Heather Trott is set for a dramatic return after being confirmed as the star of this year's pantomime in Chatham.

Cheryl Ferguson, who played the Albert Square murder victim, will appear in the Central Theatre's family show of Cinderella this winter.

She will play the Fairy Godmother, as producer of the show, Evolution Productions, unveiled its first details for the festive box office money-spinner.

It will be Ms Ferguson's first ever pantomime role.

The actress said: "I'm thrilled to be playing the part. I've heard theatre and Medway audiences are brilliant, so it's going to be loads of fun."

The star had been a regular in the

STAR: Cheryl Ferguson, aka Heather Trott, will appear in panto Cinderella

BBC soap since 2007 before writers killed her off in dramatic fashion last month when she was murdered by Phil Mitchell's troubled son Ben. Viewers were then left asking whether he would confess to the crime.

Although best known for her role in the Square, she has been a familiar face in many popular TV shows including Doctor Who, Little Britain, Casualty, Bad Girls, The IT Crowd, and 'Allo 'Allo.

Pantomime producer Paul Hendy added: "We're really proud and excited that Cheryl will be headlining our cast. She's such a great character both on screen and off, and is hugely popular with viewers of all ages, so we know she's going to go down a storm in Chatham this Christmas."

She follows in the footsteps of rapper Vanilla Ice who headlined performances of Peter Pan as Captain Hook.

Cinderella runs from December 13 to January 6. Details of other cast members will be confirmed later this summer.

Ms Ferguson is no stranger to Kent, having trained at the Rose Bruford College in Sidcup, on the community theatre arts course.

HEALTH

NHS Trust roadshows

KENT and Medway NHS and Social Care Trust is applying to become a Foundation Trust – a move it says will give local people the opportunity to have a bigger say in the way the Trust is run. It is holding roadshows on April 19, 6.30pm, at Maidstone Community Support Centre, Marsham Street; and on April 25, 6.30pm, at The Corn Exchange, High Street, Rochester.

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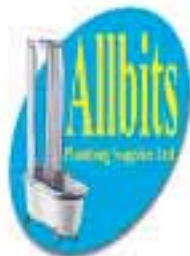


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News

ROAD SAFETY

Youngsters told not to suffer dangerous driving in silence

By Ed Hill

ed.hill@archant.co.uk

YOUNG people are being told to lose their fear of speaking up if they are in a car being driven dangerously.

Kent County Council has produced two ads about road safety to be shown in cinemas.

The first film is targeted at young drivers who drive dangerously. It asks passengers who are in a car with a driver who is driving erratically, using a mobile phone, or under the influence of drugs or alcohol, not to be afraid to speak up and tell the driver to stop.

It makes the comparison with social networking sites such as Twitter and Facebook where young people readily express themselves.

KCC road safety team leader Steve Horton said: "It is ironic that through social media sites young people have found their voice on many issues, but when in the confined environment of a car they remain silent if a driver is driving badly."

"We want young people to find their voice in the same way they exert their opinions with social media to speak up and tell drivers it is their life they are responsible for when driving them."

According to KCC, in the last three years 228 car occupants aged 16-24 have been killed or seriously injured on Kent's roads.

The road safety team is also highlighting the dangers of not wearing a seatbelt.

It has commissioned a film When Will it Click,



WARNING: KCC has made two road safety ads

Seatbelts Save Lives using stop-motion techniques to highlight the dangers of not wearing a seatbelt. The message is aimed not just at drivers, but at rear seat passengers as well.

Since the introduction of compulsory seatbelt wearing in 1983, the Government estimates more than 6,000 deaths and 670,000 serious injuries have been prevented.

Drivers and passengers aged between 17-34 have the lowest seatbelt wearing rates combined with the highest crash rate. The fine for not wearing a seat belt is £60. For passengers aged under 14 the driver is responsible.

The council is also touring the county with a number of events featuring a device called a 'seatbelt sledge' which simulates a crash for a passenger travelling at just 6mph.

■ For more information about the campaigns go to www.kentroadsafety.com.

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News

HISTORY

Malta trip to help celebrate George Cross anniversary

By Chris Murphy
 editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

AN 86-year-old woman is among a special delegation heading to Malta to help the tiny Mediterranean island celebrate the 70th anniversary of its George Cross.

Margaret Machin, from Dover, grew up on Malta during the Nazi bombardment.

Some 30,000 Merchant Navy seamen were killed during the war, many trying to keep open supply lines in the Med while coming under almost constant attack from U-boats and aerial bombing.

On Sunday, the Maltese people are celebrating the 70th anniversary of being awarded the George Cross for their bravery in withstanding the intensive bombing of the island.

The Big Lottery Fund is paying £800 to fund her trip.

Mrs Machin was born to British parents on the island. She started working, aged 15, in the Vice Admiral Malta's secret underground cypher office. She re-



MALTA: Margaret and Wesley

ceived and sent coded messages on the Typex machines, which were the British versions of the German Enigma machines.

Malta played an important wartime role owing to its proximity to German and Italian shipping lanes. The opening of a new front in North Africa in mid-1940 increased Malta's considerable strategic value.

Mrs Machin said: "The bombardments were horrific. We would feel our ears moving from the pressure of explosions

above. I remember coming up from underground to find the Opera House bombed out. Our office was right underneath.

"We worked hard sending and receiving messages to convoys and their escorts. Sometimes it was awful – we'd be sending messages to ships and then later see the ships had arrived but were smoking from being bombed.

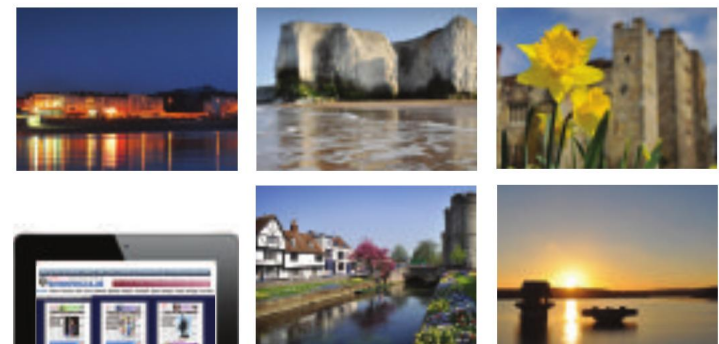
"My family home was in the dock area. We had to be moved away to barracks and shared a room with three families, a curtain separating each family. We were starving. My mother queued up with the poor people just to get a bowl of soup."

Mrs Machin's then future husband Wesley served on the island as a lance corporal. He operated searchlights and was nearly killed when he was shot through both legs by an enemy aircraft.

She added: "I have been back to the island since the war, but I think this will be the last time. This visit will be special."

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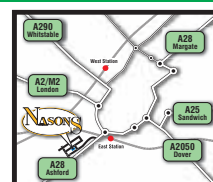
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News

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RELIGION

Village churches host cricket rebel Olonga

FORMER Zimbabwe international cricketer Henry Olonga is coming to Staplehurst to speak to churchgoers.

Olonga was Zimbabwe's first black cricketer, and made headlines across the globe at the 2003 Cricket World Cup when he wore a black armband to protest against the death of democracy in Zimbabwe.

He was forced to flee his country after being accused of treason by Mugabe's regime.

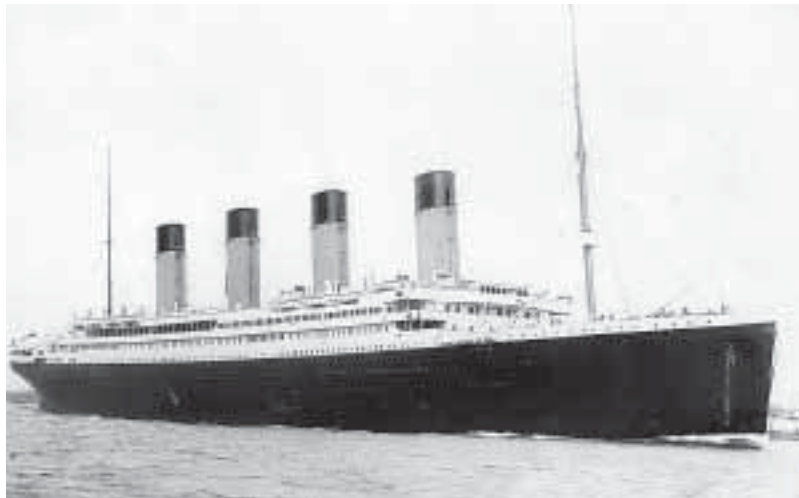
An evening with Henry Olonga is presented by Team-Spirit Staplehurst which is a joint initiative by the four churches serving the village.

They are bringing a series of free events to Staplehurst during the course of the year including comedy, talks and a family sports day.

These events start with an evening with Henry Olonga on Saturday, April 28, at Staplehurst School from 7pm.

Further details can be found at www.teamspirit-staplehurst.org.uk or via email at toby@teamspirit-staplehurst.org.uk.

HISTORY



TRAGIC SHIP: Titanic, which was reported as being 'unsinkable', sank on her maiden voyage 100 years ago, her bell apparently rang as she hit the iceberg

Life and death stories of the Kent passengers aboard doomed Titanic

By Marijke Cox

marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

A HUNDRED years ago this week the Titanic set off on its maiden voyage to America, its passengers blissfully unaware of the tragedy that lay ahead.

Among them was Kate Buss, a 36-year-old woman from Sittingbourne who was travelling to the US to wed her fiancé, and Richard Henry Rouse, a 50-year-old coal miner, also from Sittingbourne, who was emigrating with his family after losing his job in a coal strike.

Other passengers from Kent included Frank and Emily Goldsmith, aged 31 and 33, from Strood, and their son Frank, 9, as well as 29-year-old Elizabeth Nye from Folkestone.

Kent resident Harry Bristow, 39, who was living in Bromley, was working as a first-class saloon steward onboard the ship.

But the tales of these passengers ended very differently, with some surviving the disaster and others perishing in the Atlantic.

Miss Buss, who was born in Shakespeare Road, booked her trip on the Titanic as a second-class passenger for £13.

According to records, she joined the liner in Southampton, spending her days socialising with other second-class passengers until that fateful night on April 14, 1912, when disaster struck.

Archives suggest Miss Buss had been lying in her bunk reading a newspaper when the collision occurred.

She went to the cabin of fellow female passenger Marion Wright and the pair went out onto deck where they were told the ship had hit an iceberg.

After being instructed to put on warm clothes by a man named as Douglas Norman, Miss Buss was loaded onto a lifeboat with her female companion.

According to records, when they reached the Carpathia – the ship which became famous for the part it played in rescuing passengers from the stricken liner – Miss Buss was last to leave the lifeboat due to her fear of heights and the prospect of climbing the rope ladder onto deck.

On arriving in New York, Miss Buss was taken to a hostel for women and was later helped by an American reverend who had been contacted by the then-bishop of Sittingbourne.

She eventually reached San Diego after receiving funds from the American Red Cross, and met her fiancé. The couple were married on May 11, just a month after the Ti-

tanic set sail on its doomed voyage.

According to archives, Miss Buss died aged 96 in July, 1972.

The story of the other Sittingbourne passenger, however, ended in tragedy.

Mr Rouse, who lived in New Road, perished in the disaster. His body – if recovered – was never identified.

Archives state the 50-year-old had been travelling to America to his daughter's house before bringing his wife Charity and eight-year-old daughter Gladys over permanently.

Reports state the whole family was to emigrate to Cleveland, Ohio, but Mr Rouse chose to sail ahead to find work and set up a place to live.

Before his doomed trip, he took his wife and daughter to view the Titanic in Southampton and it is reported that Mrs Rouse was so overcome with fear she told her husband: "This ship is too big, it will never reach America" and attempted to talk him out of travelling on the liner.

But he argued that the ship was "unsinkable" and boarded in Southampton as a third-class passenger with a ticket costing £8.

Elizabeth Nye, the daughter of a coach builder who was part of the Folkestone's Salvation Army corps, was travelling back to America to continue work for the Salvation Army following a visit to her hometown.

According to reports, she spent five hours in a lifeboat as people drowned around her.

She was one of the last survivors to be rescued. In the 1980s, when divers reached the wreck of the Titanic, a jug with the inscription 'A Present from Folkestone' was found, which historians believe belonged to Ms Nye.

The other Kent passenger Emily Goldsmith lost her husband Frank in the sinking, and crew member Harry Bristow perished.

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Mrs Rouse was so overcome with fear she told her husband: "This ship is too big, it will never reach America" and attempted to talk him out of travelling

RICHARD ROUSE, WHO DIED ONBOARD

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News

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Craig Phillips, DIY expert and Big Brother winner will be running tiling workshops, while BBC DIY SOS architectural designer Oliver Heath will give insights into the future of home trends and eco-living.



STAR TURN: Alys Fowler and Craig Phillips will be at the show

Alys Fowler, Guardian gardening columnist and BBC gardener, will also show you how to make your garden good enough to eat.

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News

PROPERTY

Landlords taking council to High Court over rent licence

By Ed Hill

ed.hill@archant.co.uk

A BODY representing landlords is challenging a decision by Thanet District Council to introduce tougher licensing regulations.

The council wants to make the areas of Cliftonville West and Margate Central subject to a new regulation known as 'selective licensing'.

Under the ruling, if landlords want to continue to rent out properties in these areas they will have to apply for a licence and demonstrate they are acting within the law and taking adequate steps to manage their properties and keep them safe.

They also have to undergo a fit and proper person test to show they are suitable to manage a tenancy.

If the landlord of a property in a selective licensing area doesn't have a licence and they commit an offence, such as a breach of fire regulations, they may have to pay a fine of up to £20,000.

If the landlord breaches the

conditions of the licence they do hold they can be liable to a £5,000 fine.

In extreme circumstances the council has the power to take over the management of the property.

To qualify, the council has to demonstrate the areas suffer from anti-social behaviour problems caused by tenants and there is a lack of demand to rent properties.

However, the Southern Landlords Association (SLA) has taken the council's deci-

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**There is no way
what vandalism
there is can just
be attributed to
rental properties**

PETER LITTLEWOOD, FROM SLA

sion to the High Court for judicial review.

Peter Littlewood from the group said: "There is mandatory licensing for houses of multiple occupations of a certain size of five or more tenants. That already allows the council to insist the property is managed properly, but in a selective licensing area that applies to all rental properties whatever their size."

"We believe these areas do not suffer from low demand and, in our opinion, as a whole there is very little anti-social behaviour. There is not much sign of vandalism and there is no way that what vandalism there is can just be attributed to rental properties."

"Our objection is that this is over the top."

The hearing will take place at the end of October.

Mr Littlewood added: "The SLA has tried to resolve these matters directly with Thanet District Council and did not wish to resort to expensive, lengthy action, but had no option."

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News

ENVIRONMENT

World first as couple plan to build terrace of straw homes

By Ed Hill

ed.hill@archant.co.uk

IT IS usually used as bedding or feed for animals, but now straw is increasingly being used as a building material for new homes.

And one couple from Stelling Minnis, near Canterbury, will be the first in the world to build terraced homes from straw.

Andrew and Harriet Wishart plan to use the buildings as additional holiday lets at Emfield Farm when the project is completed in the autumn.

Mr Wishart said: "They have been built for around 15 years in the UK and much longer in the US."

"Our buildings will be unique because this will be a terrace of three cottages. The straw is load bearing to take the roof and this is the first time that has been done with a terrace."

The project will use 750 bales of straw, cut and stored just a few miles down the road from the farm. The Wisharts also plan to use clay excavated



UP FOR IT: Bales used for walls

from the site to do the base plaster coats on the properties.

Externally the straw is rendered with a lime mortar to help protect it from the weather.

The cottages will feature other environmentally friendly features such as a biomass boiler, underfloor heating, and a rain-water harvesting system to provide water for toilets and washing machines.

Sewage will be treated via a septic tank and reed bed before being used to irrigate a newly

planted orchard, and wood from the farm will be used for wood-burning stoves in the cottages.

The couple are inviting self-builders and conservation enthusiasts to learn more about the techniques of building with straw bales on a five-day course from April 23-27.

Mr Wishart said: "Straw is environmentally friendly, has extremely good insulation properties and makes a very nice house. Obviously you end up with very thick walls so building in town may be more of an issue, but where you have the space I think it is a wonderful."

"I think here in the South East it seems an entirely appropriate building material to use."

Mrs Wishart said: "We have had lots of jokes about three little pigs and straw houses, but the project is coming together now. Straw is the ultimate eco-friendly building material as it is renewable and a by-product of farming."

■ More news and sport at www.yourcanterbury.co.uk.

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News

TELEVISION

Help at hand for the great switchover to digital TV

By Marijke Cox

marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

THOUSANDS of homes in digital blackspots will receive Freeview television for the first time next month as the traditional analogue signal is switched off.

Digital switchover will take place countywide over May and June, giving the majority of households access to more than 40 Freeview channels free through their aerial.

It is hoped that people living in areas of Thanet, Canterbury and Ashford – which have suffered years of poor television reception – will be able to get an improved signal.

Parts of north Kent which pick up signal from a London transmitter began the switchover process this week.

South west Kent and the Tunbridge Wells area will start the stage one process – the BBC Two analogue switch-off – on May 30 and stage two – all analogue channels off – on June 13. For the remainder of Kent, stages one and two will happen on June 13 and June 27 respectively.

Viewers will be able to pick up the traditional channels as well as a range of other digital channels and services for free via an aerial.

But while nine out of 10 households in Kent are prepared – having already transferred their TVs – Digital UK, the organisation assisting in the switchover, said there are still some viewers who will need to convert their TV sets to digital to ensure they are capable of receiving services.

A Digital UK spokesman said: "Switchover happens for most viewers in Kent from May and will make Freeview available to thousands of homes across the county for the first time.

"Anyone still receiving only four or five analogue channels through an aerial will need to convert their set before switchover or risk facing a blank screen. Virtually any TV can be converted."

People already with Freeview, BT Vision or Top Up TV will have to retune their TV once the switchover starts.

Help is at hand from Digital UK, which is inviting people to contact them with any queries.

MP for South Thanet Laura Sandys, who has long been campaigning for better television signal for her constituents, also offered to help households. The area suffers particularly badly with poor reception due to an area of high atmospheric pressure.

Ms Sandys said: "While there is little we can do about the weather, I have been working hard to ensure TV reception is improved come switchover.

"This has included raising Thanet's particular signal problems in Parliament, meeting with the minister, Ofcom and Digital UK to discuss solutions to these issues, and asking Digital UK to come to Thanet to provide extra support for the switchover.

"I am also putting a safety net in place to ensure that if we do encounter any problems come switchover, these issues will be resolved.

"I would urge anyone experiencing problems with their TV reception to email me at tv@sandys.org.uk so I can ensure that the correct support is put in place."

Viewers can get independent advice on going digital by visiting www.digitaluk.co.uk or calling 08456 505050.

■ To read more about the digital switchover see the Opinion on page 28.



CHANNEL HOPPING:

The county will see the switchover to a digital signal during May and June which should allow many homes access to Freeview channels for the first time

ENTERTAINMENT

Tex-Mex gig for 80s star Young

EIGHTIES chart-topping singer Paul Young – famous for his hit Wherever I Lay My Hat, That's My Home – is taking to the stage with Tex-Mex band Los Pacaminos.

The seven-piece outfit is made up of members of Young's bands through the 80s and 90s who teamed up in 1993 to perform a mix of

classic hits and new material.

The band, fronted by Young, is performing on Friday, April 27, at 8pm at St Mary's Arts Centre in Sandwich.

Support for the gig will be from local musician Vince Martyn.

Members of the audience are often invited onstage to join the band in a slug of tequila.

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News

HEALTH

Dementia care to improve as demand keeps growing

By Marijke Cox

marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

HEALTH chiefs are investing £3.5 million to improve mental health services for older people as part of a drive to tackle the growing problem of dementia.

It comes as the Government highlights the need to improve care and research.

Currently 18,000 people live with the condition in the county, and this is expected to increase to 31,000 by 2026.

NHS chiefs in Kent and Medway have pledged to expand and improve specialist support for people with dementia; launch a round-the-clock crisis service; and invest £3.5m by April, 2014, in mental health hospital wards.

As part of the overhaul, a consultation is looking at helping people with dementia live in their homes for longer and improving facilities for those who need hospital care.

GP commissioning lead for mental health at NHS Kent and Medway Dr Gunalakshman



CARE: The investment aims to improve both care and research

Kanagassoriam said: "We know being in a familiar environment, cared for by people they love, reduces stress and anxiety for people with mental health conditions; enables them to stay in touch more easily with friends and family; and avoids the risk of them losing their independence.

"However, without the right level of support, sometimes in a crisis, for example when the carer becomes ill, people with dementia can be admitted to hospital unnecessarily.

"We are planning on investing £600,000 to expand our range of services in the com-

munity to ensure people with dementia can remain independent for as long as possible.

"At the same time, we recognise that facilities in mental health wards for older people in east Kent need improving.

"We want to ensure everyone has a single room with en suite bathroom, access to communal space and safe, secure, outdoor spaces.

"The treatment environment can impact on their recovery."

Kent and Medway NHS and Social Care Partnership Trust is planning an investment of £3.5m to remodel its hospital wards for older people.

There are four wards for people with mental health problems spread across Canterbury, Ashford and Margate. There is also a Home Treatment Service providing intensive, short-term support, in which health chiefs are investing £250,000.

See the consultation at www.easternandcoastalkent.nhs.uk/opmhreview or call 0800 085 6606 for a copy. The closing date for responses is June 25.

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KENTEVENTS



KENT REMEMBERED



RIP: King Henry IV's tomb lies next to his consort Queen Joanne of Navarre in Canterbury Cathedral

King's tomb shrouded in myth and legend

By Nick Ames

nick.ames@archant.co.uk

THE sole King of England to be buried in the sacred halls of Canterbury Cathedral is Henry IV – immortalised by William Shakespeare.

He is interred in Trinity Chapel alongside his consort Queen Joanne of Navarre, just across from the far better known tomb of Edward the Black Prince – a man whose son he forced off the throne and is believed to have been gruesomely murdered on his royal command.

Alabaster effigies of the couple mark their resting place.

Henry, originally known as Henry Bolingbroke, was born in 1367, and reigned from 1399 until 1413.

He spent some early years fruitlessly helping the Teutonic Knights attack Vilnius, now the capital of Lithuania, before making a pilgrimage to Jerusalem.

He had been a childhood friend of the then-king of England Richard II, but a chance remark was interpreted as treason and Henry was exiled and his inheritances seized.

But when Richard was on a military campaign in Ireland, Henry returned and rallied his supporters.

Declaring himself King, he captured and imprisoned Richard who then suffered one of history's most infamous legendary deaths – by red hot poker, although this story has never been verified.

Henry's coronation on October 13, 1399, was significant



CROWNING GLORY: Henry IV became King of England in 1399

as it marked the first time the new monarch had addressed the assembled throng in English – rather than French – since the Norman Conquest.

With Richard's body on display in St Paul's Cathedral, to show any remaining supporters their claimant to the throne was dead, he now faced the problems of governing Medieval England.

Plots, rebellions and assassination attempts marked Henry's reign with Welshman Owain Glyndr having some military success, before his the king's son – later to become Henry V – bested the upstart on the battlefield.

Other conflicts Henry IV faced included those against Richard loyalists the earls of Kent, Huntingdon and Salisbury; the Percy family, who he defeated at the Battle of Shrewsbury; and the Archbishop of York and the Earl of Northum-

berland with his Scottish allies.

Political triumphs included entertaining the only Byzantine emperor to visit England, Manuel II Palaiologos, who saw a joust held in his honour at Eltham, and the capture of King James I of Scotland by English pirates whom he kept as a prisoner.

But a disfiguring skin disease – possibly a form of leprosy – was taking its toll and severe attacks of an undiagnosed illness, maybe cardiovascular or epilepsy, resulted in Henry IV's death.

Prophecies had stated he would die in Jerusalem and Shakespeare echoes this.

The monarch had told his court he believed this meant he would die on crusade – but he actually died in the Jerusalem Chamber of the house of the Abbot of Westminster.

Henry IV had stated his wish to be buried at Canterbury, but the reasons why are unclear with the royal story then turning to fable.

It is believed a massive storm washed over the ship carrying his coffin as it sailed past Faversham, and according to some accounts the remains of the monarch were thrown overboard to lighten the vessel's load.

Controversy continued up until the 19th century when the tomb was opened to establish the truth once and for all.

The story then goes that Henry's body, complete with preserved red beard, was bought to view, just seconds before it crumbled to dust on exposure to the air.

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OPINION

Sending out all the right signals

The digital TV revolution is about to hit Kent. **Tony Gray** from Digital UK offers a switchover guide for any worried viewers still out there...

IN A night of savage winter storms a couple of years ago, I stood in a seaside village hall extolling the virtues of digital television.

From the back of the room, a white-haired old man looking every inch an Old Testament prophet called out: "I tell you it just won't bloody work! And even if it does, no-one will be able to understand it. You are murdering the best television service in the world."

Hundreds of village meetings later, I'm quietly relieved to say the Jeremiahs seem to have been proved wrong. The homicide squad haven't come knocking on my door yet.

This Wednesday, analogue TV signals will be turned off for viewers in north Kent who pick up their signal from the Crystal Palace transmitter in London.

Switchover in other parts of Kent starts on 30 May and runs throughout June.

By next Wednesday, 89 per

cent of the UK – more than 23 million homes – will have switched successfully from analogue to digital-only television.

It's the biggest change in British broadcasting in nearly half a century.

There are three simple, golden rules to make sure your TV screen doesn't go blank at digital switchover:

1. If you're still watching four or five channels on analogue TV, convert it with a digital box costing on average £25.
2. If you already watch Freeview (digital TV through an aerial), retune your equipment to avoid losing channels.
3. If you have satellite or cable TV, you don't need to do anything.

Virtually every analogue TV can be converted to digital and most homes will be fine with the aerial they have at the moment.

Switchover is happening so that high-power Freeview channels can be broadcast to almost every home, including free high-definition TV channels.

Quite rightly, everyone asks me how older and disabled people will survive.

A couple of weeks ago, I met a 92-year-old lady in one of our advice centres.

She sat down for a quick lesson in how to fit a digital box, went straight home to convert all the TVs in her house... then came back with home-made chocolate cupcakes to say thank you.

"I'm delighted I could do it," she said with a smile. "It was a great feeling to be able to tell my grandson I didn't need his help with new technology."

Cupcakes aside, there's lots of help and information available for everyone.

For those aged 75 or older, or with certain disabilities, the Switchover Help Scheme can



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Three rules to making sure your TV screen doesn't go blank

provide everything you need to switch one TV to digital and the scheme is still open. (Action with Communities in Rural Kent is looking for volunteers to help out with this work in small communities. Email kathy.bugden@ruralkent.org.uk if you're interested.)

The digital switchover roadshows, with their bright pink vans, are coming soon to a shopping centre near you.

Every home in Kent will receive a free 20-page guide in the post. Pop-up captions and advertisements appear regularly on your TV screens.

If all that fails and you still haven't done anything by the time switchover arrives, your TV screen will go blank.

But I'm determined it won't come to that.

[To find out when and how the digital TV switchover works where you live, visit www.digitaluk.co.uk or call 08456 50 50 50.]

KOS COMMENT

Remember to plan space for the dead

IF THERE'S one thing in life that's inevitable, it's death, meaning the problem of finding new burial space is something that generations before us and generations after us have had and will have to tackle.

The fact that there is little burial space left in parts of Kent is nobody's fault, except, you could argue, that planning should have started earlier.

Then again, planning for a cemetery is not like planning a new house. There are strict rules to be followed, which means that any such plan can take years to be agreed.

Councils talk about the importance of housing for future generations, but a resting place for those departing this world is also greatly needed.

A horrendous loss

ONE hundred years ago this weekend, more than 1,500 people died in the sinking of the Titanic.

The disaster had a devastating impact across the globe, something that is still felt today.

This weekend, take a moment to remember all those who perished.

Most days George feels lost
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Sea change for drought issue

DOES the sinking of the Titanic publicity – featuring hot and cold, fresh and sea water – offer another possible solution to our present drought?

The water companies appear to give a low priority to delivery by stopping leaks and supplying the needs of our households, industry and farmers.

Such solutions as a water grid – piping water from Scotland – or bringing it south via our canal systems appear to offend water companies' territorial ethos and receive lower consideration than their bonuses.

Why don't the water companies follow the example set by the Titanic – no I am not advocating drowning their management – but simply laying an extra water pipe to each house (or at least schools, public facilities such as

swimming baths, town halls and major industry complexes) carrying sea water to take care of their loo requirements and other non-essential water activities.

New household industries could arrive as washing machines and other white goods are adapted or receive additives to make them sea water friendly – problem solved.

**Edward La Coste,
Lamberhurst**

Ukip offer the only solution

WE do not have a coalition government, what we have is a dictatorship of two very rich men who don't care one iota for England.

I have just seen a family whom I have known all my life leave to live elsewhere because this government has made them bankrupt.

What would they have to look forward to if they stayed: a means test after working all

their lives to ensure they had a comfortable retirement?

And they are not alone; you cannot fight a dictatorship.

I have voted for the Tory Party all my life, but they won't get my vote next time.

I am voting for Ukip, and I only hope all who love our country will vote for them also, they are the only party who seem to care about the land we fought for and are now losing without a fight.

The other parties have had their chance – now time for a drastic change.

John R O'Neon, Folkestone

Vote against usual suspects

TAX reductions and changes benefiting businesses and the better-off are being 'mis-sold' on the basis they will create jobs and growth. They won't.

The old bust-to-boom solutions will no longer work.

Government austerity measures and unemployment

are taking money from ordinary shoppers' pockets, and reducing tax receipts, thereby contracting the economy, whereas, much of wealthier individuals and businesses increased net disposable income is being 'hoarded' or spent outside the UK.

Austerity measures are merely starting, with far worse to come. Government is relying on 'growth' to reduce its deficit. Even optimistically, this growth would be marginal, because it has ignored technology and population factors and wrongly assumes that 'corrections' will occur as previously.

As financial institutions that largely created our national and global economic crisis would say: "The past is not a guide to the future."

Parliament is responsible for: allowing this disaster to happen; the ineffectual measures being taken; and their effect on the lower paid, including pensioners.

Therefore, may I urge that we use the May local elections

to signal our disapproval and lack of confidence in the current government, by not voting for their candidates.

A low vote for those candidates would send that message.

Local candidates are not themselves responsible for our worsening national situation – but their political parties and national leaders are.

**John Dutton,
Tunbridge Wells**

Good work is there already

I WAS interested to read your recent article about the Big Society Co-operative and an interview with its founder Stephen Bell.

However, I was somewhat surprised to see Mr Bell's suggestion that the types of services this new organisation intends to offer to are not easily available elsewhere.

In fact the voluntary sector in Kent is already well served

by a network of support and development organisations, both volunteer centres and councils for voluntary service.

Your readers can find details of their local services on the Kent Centres of Voluntary Excellence website at www.volunteercentreskent.org.uk/.

Having worked in the voluntary sector for more than 25 years I am keenly aware of the need for good infrastructure services and so welcome any initiative which can strengthen the support available, especially in the current economic climate.

I do, however, hope Mr Bell and his new organisation will consult with, and complement, the existing services and not simply reinvent the wheel.

**Sue Tucker,
development officer
Canterbury District
Voluntary Action and
Support**

ABC should lead the way

THE latest figures for youth unemployment in Ashford show yet another depressing increase with more than 650 of our 18 to 24-year-olds on Job Seekers Allowance – 7.6 per cent compared to the South East average of 5.7 per cent.

Meanwhile the number of those unemployed for more than 12 months has doubled since February last year.

While we, in the Ashford Independent Group, believe voluntary work experience programmes have a place, we believe more traditional apprenticeship schemes and extended work experience offer young unemployed the best route to gaining a long-term career. And it seems central government agrees by extending the minimum duration of new apprenticeships.

What is disappointing is that Ashford Borough Council has fallen woefully behind its neighbouring local authorities in supporting these excellent programmes.

With the numbers of unemployed 18-24 year olds rising across the borough, a strong Chamber of Commerce and local companies renowned for their community engagement we could, and should, be doing better.

Come on ABC, bite the bullet and take a lead.

**Tony Bartlett,
Ashford Independent
Association**

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Vagaries of inheritance tax in black and white

Q MY wife and I understand we can avoid inheritance tax by gifting property now, as long as we then live for seven years. However, would capital gains tax be payable? We have made wills leaving enough to our daughters and grandchildren to use up the tax-exempt amount, with everything above that passing to whichever of us is the survivor. This means that on the second death, anything above the exempt slice will be taxed at 40pc. Is there any publication that would help us?

A AS you clearly know, anything passing from one spouse to the other escapes inheritance tax. There are other exemptions, too, including bequests to charity. And, of course, the first £325,000 of your estate is exempt. The advantage of making major gifts now is that after seven years those gifts will drop out of your estate completely and escape inheritance tax. Capital gains tax could be due if gifts consist of stocks and shares or similar assets that would be subject to gains tax if you sold them. But gains tax is 18pc or 28pc, depending on your overall tax position – well below the 40pc inheritance tax rate. And, if you gift money rather than taxable assets, there is no gains tax. The consumer organisation Which? publishes a useful book about ways of ensuring your family will benefit rather than the taxman. *Giving & Inheriting* costs £10.99 from the Which? order line (01903 828 557).

Q MY parents have offered to invest £500 in premium bonds for each of our two children, who are aged four and two. My husband and I are very grateful, but we are concerned about what might happen if, say, our daughter's bonds won £1m and our son's bonds won nothing. It would affect them for the rest of their lives. Is there any legally binding way to put the full £1,000 into bonds in their joint names?

A ACCORDING to the rules, premium bonds have to be in the name of one person. They cannot be held jointly. You can get round this, though. While your children are under 16, any prizes will be paid to you, so you could simply split the money between them. However, I suppose there is always the chance that 20 years from now, the child whose bond won a big prize might ask awkward questions, or even threaten to sue you for the "missing" half that had gone to the other child. So if your parents agree, my suggestion is to register the bonds in your name. You will get a certificate for £1,000 in bonds, and you can make a note on it to say that it belongs to your children. Then you can share any prizes between them without risking one child trying later to demand the lot.

TONY HETHERINGTON
MONEY CLINIC



Q YOU wrote recently about the safety of company pension schemes. I left a company in 1986, with a pension frozen until my retirement, when it was found that pension funds were missing. Did the Pension Protection Fund that you mentioned only affect pension schemes after it was launched in 2005, and how quickly does it step in and start payments to pensioners? Is there any link between it and something called the Financial Assistance Scheme?

A THE Pension Protection Fund was set up by Parliament in 2004, to help people whose company pension scheme had gone bust. The key date is April 6, 2005, when it opened for business. The PPF can help only if the pension scheme got into trouble and started to be wound up on or after that date. The fund aims to step in within 28 days of problems arising and take over payments at 90pc-100pc of agreed pensions. The similar Financial Assistance Scheme is now run by the PPF, but can help members of pension schemes already in trouble before the PPF began.

Q PLEASE explain how advertisements can suggest putting £10,680 into a tax-free Isa scheme when the legal limit is only £5,340. Are the advertisements aimed at couples?

A THERE are two types of individual savings account (Isa). You can put £10,680 into a stocks and shares Isa, or up to £5,340 in a cash Isa and the balance into shares, as long as you do not exceed £10,680 in all.

Q I AM 18 and earn less than the tax threshold but I still have to pay national insurance. Why are the starting points not the same?

A THE tax and national insurance systems developed separately. The Government would like to merge them with the same thresholds, but this is not easy. People already retired have paid for their state pensions and now pay no more national insurance, so merging the two systems would mean pensioners paying extra tax for no extra benefit.

■ If you have a personal-finance question, write to Tony Hetherington, MyMoney24, Prospect House, Rouen Road, Norwich NR1 1RE. We regret that neither Tony nor the MyMoney24 team can enter into personal correspondence.

Paying hidden price for overseas transactions

Be careful how you use your debit card abroad, otherwise the charges can quickly mount up, says **ADAM AIKEN**

DEBIT cards are seen by many people as the easy way to pay for goods and services.

They are accepted in most shops, you can often use them to get cash-back when you make a purchase, you can use them online, and they are free to use.

Well, up to a point...

Debit cards might be free to use in the UK, but if you try to use one while you are abroad, you are likely to be stung with high charges, for both purchases and cash withdrawals.

Occasional usage is probably bearable for most people, but it won't take long for these charges to mount up if you use a card overseas regularly.

"Debit card charges for overseas transactions continue to be a major bugbear for consumers," said Andrew Hagger, a spokesman for Money.net.co.uk.

"While a debit card costs you nothing to use in the UK, in the majority of cases you will be charged for cash withdrawals and purchases when abroad.

"Many customers choose their current accounts based on the credit or debit interest rates, yet for people who travel abroad, a fee-free debit card could save them far more over the course of a year."

A few providers, such as Metro Bank, and Norwich and Peterborough Building Society, offer fee-free debit cards, but the vast majority of cards come with high charges. And most of these cards impose not one, but two charges every time they are used – a foreign loading fee plus a transaction or withdrawal fee.

If you were charged a loading fee of 2.75pc and a withdrawal fee of 2pc, you would be stung for £4.75 for making a withdrawal of £100 in foreign currency. And don't forget that banks and building societies also impose their own exchange rates on you when they convert your transactions into sterling.

Mr Hagger said: "If you look at a scenario in which a family is on holiday for two weeks in the sun, and they make five cash withdrawals of the equivalent of £100 and eight debit card purchases worth £50, they could easily be faced with a total charges bill of £45 or £50."

People would never entertain the idea of using a cash card in the UK that charged you so much for withdrawing our own money, but we seem to be more accepting of it when it comes to overseas use.

Louise Holmes, a spokesman for



TIPS ON USING DEBT CARDS ABROAD

- 1) Debit cards are linked to current accounts, so check your account balance (and overdraft facility, if relevant) before you go.
- 2) Check the expiry date on your card. You don't want it running out while you're abroad.
- 3) Find out how much you will be charged for purchases and cash withdrawals. For example, it's possible that making a few, larger withdrawals will cost you less than making many smaller ones.
- 4) Let your bank or building society know you will be overseas. If you do not do this, you run the risk that your card provider sees foreign transactions as fraudulent, and blocks the card.

DYNAMIC CURRENCY CONVERSION

WHETHER or not you have a debit card that charges you for using it abroad, take care not to fall for "dynamic currency conversion".

This is the idea that a retailer or a restaurateur offers you the chance to pay in either local currency or sterling. Although your initial thought might be to be paid in sterling, you'll almost certainly lose out.

"While this sounds a good idea in that you know how much you'll be charged, the problem is that it gives the retailer the opportunity to use an uncompetitive exchange rate, which could see you paying over the odds by 3pc or 4pc," said Andrew Hagger at Money.net.

In most all situations, complete the transaction in the local currency and let your bank make the conversion at its own exchange rate.

Moneyfacts.co.uk, said planning was key for travellers who did not have fee-free cards.

"Many of us are used to free banking, so it can be easy to assume we won't be charged for using our debit cards overseas," she said.

"This can be a costly mistake, however, with charges applied both for taking money out of a cash machine and for making purchases in stores abroad. Minimum charges will apply when withdrawing cash abroad, so it may be worth planning a few days ahead based on your plans for the holiday.

"In the midst of having fun, it can be difficult to keep a close eye on

spending and overseas charges can soon mount up."

Mr Hagger added: "It is better that you are aware of these charges before you jet off, rather than get a nasty shock when you get home, so contact your bank to find out what charges are applicable for both purchases and cash transactions when outside the UK.

"At least if you understand the overseas charges, you can adjust your spending pattern accordingly.

"For example, you don't want to be making cash withdrawals or purchases of £10 or £20 if you're going to be hit with charges of £1.50-plus each time."

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If you have a business story or any news you think we should be covering in this section, reporter **Nick Ames** would like to hear from you. You can phone him on **01303 817181**, or alternatively email **nick.ames@archant.co.uk**.

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Business Week

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Getting the high street moving

An obvious indicator of the health of the British economy is the high street. Online sales account for an ever-increasing chunk of the retail trade, but footfall in shops is vital to the business health of a community, with cash coming in at the sharp end of trade. Last month the Business Week team took a walk down Hythe high street to gauge how stores were coping in the face of economic uncertainty, while the Labour Party has been canvassing the same businesses and asking what they need to prosper. And in addition to all this, the Government has appointed retail guru Mary Portas to give her thoughts about possible solutions. **Nick Ames** investigates further how we can pull our high streets out of trouble.

FREE parking is the No 1 priority if businesses are to prosper in troubled Hythe high street, according to a survey by the Labour Party.

In a poll of 76 businesses conducted earlier this year, free parking emerged as almost twice as important as any other issue.

About half the businesses polled wanted at least two hours' free parking for shoppers in the high street, with just 2 per cent of shopkeepers suggesting that free parking should be for less than the one-hour period currently available.

In an article earlier this year, Business Week showed how declining footfall and the economic situation was putting many shops in the town under threat of closure.

Retailers called for any help they could get in attracting new custom – and parking was the main area identified as they said customers visiting supermarkets had to park too far away from smaller stores and were discouraged from casual visits.

Matt Hillyer, producer of the survey, said he was surprised at the result. "We didn't expect parking to rate as more important than business rates or advertising, but the response has been almost unanimous," he said.

"The shop-owners we spoke to thought it was the easiest and most effective way to bring people to Hythe and gave them an even platform on which to compete with the supermarkets. Two hours' free parking was viewed as the ideal length of time for customers to spend in town."

The survey coincides with Shepway District Council's draft parking strategy, which suggests reducing free on-street parking to 30 minutes in



TOUGH NUT:

Many retailers and shop-owners in Hythe high street were adamant that more free parking would increase footfall and bring a change of fortune for businesses

high streets, in a bid to persuade drivers to park in under-used car parks.

"The council should listen to the businesses in the high streets and increase the time limits to allow people to shop for longer," said Peter Wallace, secretary of the local Labour group.

"We've heard from the shops, particularly the restaurants, cafés and hairdressers, that they want at least two hours' free parking for their customers, because one hour isn't enough."

"If the council make those changes, we predict Shepway could attract thousands more customers to our towns per year, as well as bringing countless other benefits."

Across the town centre, shop-owners have reported that takings at the till are down dramatically, footfall is declining and rents are increasing – all factors that they say could see some stores closing their doors by the end of the year.



Typical problems are those experienced by Alan Fairbairn and his wife Susan, who run Trouvailles antiques store. They say that takings are down two-thirds from their peak and rent has increased by half.

"We took over a 16-year lease on the shop," said Mr Fairbairn. "There is provision for an increase in rent in the contract, but nothing for a cut when takings are down – as they are."

Mrs Fairbairn explained how the business had suffered over recent years.

"There was a time when the value of antiques was really high," she said. "But the market has decreased in the last few years. We have a lot of stock which we bought during the boom time but are having to sell at a loss."

"People wanted the feel-good factor of buying as little as 18 months ago, but now they just aren't."

Could £10 market stalls point more prosperous way ahead?

A BUSINESS survey has revealed that in 2011 the larger high-street chains closed an average of 14 stores a day across Britain.

So in this difficult retail market, chartered-accountancy group ICAEW is encouraging entrepreneurs to take advantage of a Government-backed scheme offering market stalls for £10 over a fortnight this summer.

For those starting a new business or wishing to extend an existing venture, it says the Love Your Local Market campaign offers a low-cost, low-risk way to test a new product.

The market-stall initiative will run from Saturday, June 23, to Sunday, July 8, and is the first official response to the Portas Review – an independent review of the English high street undertaken by Mary Portas, a leading

marketing consultant appointed by Prime Minister David Cameron.

Ashford, hit badly by store closures, is applying to be one of 12 'Portas Pilots' – towns that will share a £1 million Government handout in a bid to turn around their high streets.

Ms Portas has called for a National Market Day to promote markets and allow budding shopkeepers to try their hand at operating a low-cost retail business.

The review also urged that unnecessary

HELPING HAND:

Mary Portas used by the Government

regulations be removed to make it easier for people to become market-traders.

Fay Webster, ICAEW's South East regional director, said: "Market trading allows entrepreneurs to be flexible and take their trade to customers without being tied into expensive long-term property leases."

"It is a great way to test their offering in a low-cost, risk-free environment."

"The old model of starting in retail with an immediate commitment to a shop in a town centre has been challenged by online and out-of-town shopping. New retailers have to be

convinced that there is a sufficient demand for their product before committing to a lease."

The Love Your Local Market scheme provides a great platform to get a new business idea off the ground without incorporating unnecessary costs.

Traders will get to interact with the public and fellow traders and build a good network of customers and colleagues and a sense of community.

"The scheme gives budding retailers the opportunity and space to develop and flourish in a friendly, relaxed environment," said Webster.

"Market stalls, such as Christmas markets, have always succeeded in bringing people together to sell, share and socialise and are a fantastic testing ground for entrepreneurs introducing a new product."



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Telecare has its finger on the pulse of heart patients way out west

By Nick Ames

nick.ames@archant.co.uk

HEALTHCARE specialist Red Alert Telecare, based in Ashford, has landed a contract to support heart-disease patients across Dorset.

The company will be installing and maintaining monitoring devices that will allow hundreds of people to remain living safely and independently at home.

By carrying out their own daily checks on a number of vital health indicators and forwarding the data to their GP or health specialist, the 500 coronary-care patients will be able to live normal lives, safe in the knowledge that any issues will be flagged up by the technology and will alert medical help.

Two years ago, Red Alert Telecare played a leading role in a Department of Health trial – called a whole-systems demonstrator – that proved the merits of the life-changing technology, known as 'telehealth'.

Now the company is working with leading provider Telehealth Solutions to install its technology in homes across the West Country county on behalf of NHS Dorset, Bournemouth and Poole.

The equipment, which is freely available to

those with long-term chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, allows people to monitor their blood pressure, blood oxygen level, weight and heart rate and record the results using a simple, menu-driven touch-screen tablet computer.

It also asks a number of routine questions about how the patient is feeling.

"This is remarkable technology and it can make a huge difference to patients who would otherwise have to visit outpatients for regular checks or contact their GP if they thought something might be wrong," said Red Alert Telecare managing director Clive Gawler.

"It has been clearly demonstrated that this type of equipment reduces emergency admissions to hospital and, more importantly, has saved lives by drawing attention to potentially fatal conditions."

"We are delighted to be working with Red Alert on this important project," said Tim Shaw, operations director at Telehealth Solutions.

"Installing and maintaining this technology is not just specialised but plays a vital part in ensuring that the systems work correctly."

When the data has been collected, the patient sends it to a central computer using a roaming mobile-phone connection and it is compared against that person's normal parameters.



Gawler said: "If anything is flagged up as being unusual, the system alerts the right medical person, who can then take action."

"It allows the patient to become more involved in managing their own condition and prevents them undertaking what might be a long or difficult journey for a check-up that just proves nothing has changed."

"As well as giving people back their independence, telehealth has the potential to save the health service millions of pounds in unnecessary appointments and emergency admissions, as well as freeing up professionals' time and hospital beds."

Aussie flat-packing is good business sense

HYTHE company Gopak is investing for the future and flying the flag for Britain as it faces competition in the market from Chinese imports.

The business, which produces lightweight folding tables for customers including schools, community halls and churches, has recently expanded its operations after acquiring a licence to produce a product designed in Australia.



"The last four years

have been very challenging," said managing director Andrew Fieldwick, above.

"But when the Australian opportunity came along, we had to take it. We worked out how to flat-pack the design and so went ahead with investing in expanded premises."

"The investment was at a difficult time, but we took a long-term view so that when the market does pick up we will be in a position to capitalise."

"These are the sort of decisions you cannot afford to get wrong. It was a brave move, but the company has a strong financial base, so we were able to do it without borrowing."

Competition in the marketplace has also been a factor in Gopak's decision.

Diane Ponting, sales and marketing director, said: "Buying from importers may give you just a standard design, but we have thousands of different ones which can accommodate any need or requirement."

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'We need women' say building chiefs

CONSTRUCTION companies in Kent and the South East should take steps to attract more females to meet the industry's need to find top talent, according to a survey conducted on the CITB-ConstructionSkills website.

The survey showed that most respondents (60 per cent) felt it was important for employers to bring more females into construction in order to 'attract more talented individuals' (47.5 per cent) and to ensure the workforce better reflected society's demographics (13 per cent).

For those who thought it was not important for industry to do more to attract women (nine per cent), most suggested that activity in this area was 'just political correctness'.

Sara Pearce, sector strategy manager for CITB-ConstructionSkills South East said: "It's really encouraging to see the comments and enthusiasm around increasing the number of women in the industry – it's hugely important to have the widest possible talent pool to draw from irrespective of gender, race, sexual orientation, ethnicity or faith."

"We need quality candidates coming into the construction industry in the South East, and there are already many examples of women doing really well, but we still need to challenge some prevailing misconceptions that are damaging to our efforts to attract the best talent."

Minister's rules for young apprentices

APPRENTICESHIPS will last for a minimum of 12 months guaranteeing improvements in training and workplace learning, skills minister John Hayes has announced.

The new standards will come into force for all age groups from August, subject to consultation with providers and employers.

For those aged 19 and over apprenticeships will last between one to four years unless prior learning or attainment has been recorded. Apprenticeships for 16-18 year olds will last a minimum of 12 months without exception.

Mr Hayes said: "The momentum we have created by building the apprenticeship brand has brought about unprecedented success for the apprenticeship programme."

"The majority of apprenticeships are the gold standard in vocational training. They boost individuals' life chances and build the skills that drive growth. They also provide a great return on public money. This has been independently recognised with the National Audit Office finding that apprenticeships generate £18 for the economy for every £1 spent."

"But we must be relentless in our drive to ensure all apprenticeships are as good as the best."

College head defends apprenticeship schemes

MIDKENT College acting principal Sue McLeod has come out in defence of apprenticeships following criticism of the training schemes by the BBC's flagship current affairs show Panorama.

The BBC One show last week featured examples of bad practice in the further education sector, and criticised some colleges' use of subcontractors in delivering work-based training.

The programme claimed there was little scrutiny over how public money was being spent on the schemes.

However, Ms McLeod offered a strong defence of apprenticeships, and was keen to stress that the actions of a minority should not undermine the true value and worth of training programmes.

She said: "Apprenticeships are an important way of preparing young people for employment and are vital to the Government's strategy for economic recovery."

"At a time when youth unemployment is high, we should be doing all we can to champion a scheme that for many years has linked up local and national firms with hard-working trainees for the benefit of everyone involved."

"MidKent College is approved by the Skills Funding Agency to offer both apprenticeships and advanced apprenticeships, and it is in our best interests to provide the best education possible for those who rely on us to help them into employment."

"In respect to subcontractors – which the Government supports the use of – we only use those who meet our high expectations."

Earlier this year nine MidKent College apprentices lost their jobs when the Sheerness-based metalwork firm Thames-steel went bust.

But thanks to the efforts of staff in the college's business development unit and JobShop, all have now found alternative employment to enable them to complete their training.

The speed in which they found new jobs, said Ms McLeod, was largely due to the quality of training they had already received.

She added: "Our response to the Thames-steel situation is evidence of how we have the best interests of our students at heart."

"Their education and welfare is top of our list of priorities, and always will be."

"Colleges like ours are not-for-profit organisations which serve our communities for the long term. It is not in our interests to provide poor quality education."

A taskforce was been set up by Kent County Council after the closure of the Thames-steel plant in Sheerness in January and the loss of 350 jobs.

The steel firm went into administration last month with 350 of the 400 staff being told they were being made redundant.

MP for Sittingbourne and Sheppey Gordon Henderson has been trying to stop equipment at the plant from being sold abroad.



ON THE JOB TRAINING: 'Apprenticeships are vital for the economic recovery'

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Schools & education

It's full steam ahead for Hornby's train set model-making projects

HORNBY Hobbies has teamed up with Kent County Council to give primary schools the chance to be in the driving seat and design their own train set landscapes.

The Margate-based company has sponsored the initiative to the tune of more than £7,000.

While creating their individual models, pupils have been learning how to plan a project, draw to scale, build the base-board, learn how electricity works, design the layout of the

track, connect up circuits and motors, build scale buildings, and how trains shunt engines and wagons.

KCC leader Cllr Paul Carter said: "This is a new venture for us and we are grateful to Hornby for providing the equipment to make it happen."

"The response from schools just emphasises the enthusiasm of teachers to find new ways of motivating young people to learn new skills while having fun."

Each school, with the help of KCC Local members, will be provided with a train and track to create a portable shelf-style layout on a board 75cm x 200cm. Each school can develop its own ideas for the model and can add trains, track, countryside and infrastructure to the scene.

More than 100 schools have applied for the 50 train sets available. All the sets have been distributed and schools are beginning the model-making project.

Designers get their stripes with Radio 4 slimming clothes test

FASHION design students at the University for the Creative Arts (UCA) Rochester have been working with Radio 4 to settle the age-old question of whether stripes really can make you look thinner.

Val Watham, a finalist on Radio 4's So You Want to Be a Scientist, devised an experiment to test whether stripes affect people's perception of size. She then turned to UCA for help.

A team of volunteers from the fashion design course made up a range of shirts and dresses with the stripes positioned horizontally and vertically. Students were then filmed wearing each of the dresses and shirts, plus a plain black alternative. Visitors to the BBC Science tent at Edinburgh Science Festival in April will be asked to watch the videos and estimate what size the model is in each of the clips.

To make sure the study is scientifically valid, Val has also been working with psychologist Dr Peter Thompson from the University of York.

He is an expert in visual perception and has helped to design the test that will be carried out at Edinburgh Science Festival.

Val said: "Working with UCA has been a great



SHAPING UP: Students made the striped clothes

experience – the students have been fantastic. Not only have they made up the garments, but they also volunteered to act as models.

"I hope that the data we gather from this experiment will shed more light on the way different patterns affect our perception of size."

Thomas Williams, one of the first year fashion design students who volunteered to make the garments, said: "I was really excited at having the opportunity to work with the BBC."

Fellow student Luq Ali added: "I own loads of stripy clothes and I definitely do think they have an impact on perception of size. I can't wait until the findings are revealed (in June)."

Medal success for college students' union in build up to Olympic Games

CANTERBURY College Students' Union has collected an award for its Olympian efforts.

The SU won a bronze medal for Living the Olympic Values at the Podium Awards 2012, beating more than 200 colleges and universities.

The judges were impressed with the college's delivery of the Olympic values – courage, determination, equality, excellence, friendship, inspiration, and respect.

It is the latest honour to be bestowed on Canterbury College's

SU, which recently won a NUS Award for a record-breaking fourth consecutive year.

Student's Union president Tony Payne said: "We have been working hard to get students inspired about the London 2012 Games for the past four years, so it's great to win a Podium Award."

"This is the fifth year the college has been nominated for an award based on the quality of our extra-curricular activities

and it's a real testament to the commitment of the students here."

"I'm really looking forward to seeing the Olympic Park and taking students to some of the events."

The Podium Awards recognise the role colleges and universities play in delivering the London 2012 Games. Canterbury College Student's Union will receive its award at a black-tie event in London next month.

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Embracing new technologies, exploiting export opportunities and forward-thinking are all ways that companies can grow and prosper.

Business leaders across the county are always keen to showcase what Kent has to offer – especially the top-class facilities and the local motivated and skilled workforce.

Roger House, chairman of the Federation of Small Businesses in Kent and Medway, said: "Kent is a great place to do business, the Garden of England twist London and Europe. In addition to the Kent Science Park at Sittingbourne we now have Discovery Park on the Pfizer site at Sandwich, creating unique opportunities for small businesses to gain access to high-grade pharmaceutical facilities."

Education is also a vital part of the county's appeal to business, and companies are always looking at ways to work alongside schools and colleges so that they can explain what business needs to the next generation of the workforce.

Careers and jobs affairs are held across the county to bring young people face to face with the market place, while the county is also successful in bringing forward new entrepreneurs.

Martin Crowther, director of VR Sani-Co in Herne Bay, said: "Having university business schools on the doorstep provides easy access to high-quality skills and knowledge transfer to enable local firms to become more productive."

The transport links that provide unparalleled access to London, the



HARD WORK AND VISION: Sonja Wood won two Institute of Directors awards; she was the only woman to reach the finals

rest of the UK and the Continent are another important factor in the county's business success.

Tony Pringle, tpplast Ltd proprietor, said: "With two international stations in the county we have much-improved opportunities for doing business in

Europe, and the introduction of the high-speed train service from Canterbury West has significantly reduced travel time to many towns and cities in the Midlands.

"This reduces the need to drive and creates the opportunity of working

while travelling."

Typical of the forward thinking shown by Kent businesses is the director of a washroom recycling business who cleaned up at a prestigious business-awards event – the Institute of Directors London and

South East director of the year, sponsored by Pricewaterhouse Coopers.

Sonja Wood, director of Ashford-based EcoSan Services, won two awards at the London ceremony: director of the year for a business up to £4.99 million category and new business director of the year. She was the only female director to reach the finals of this year's awards.

EcoSan offers eco-friendly washroom solutions to businesses in every sector. It was the first southern-based business to offer sanitary, nappy and incontinence recycling and recently recorded another first by recycling chewing gum.

Previously, EcoSan won the 2011 KEiBA award for business commitment to the environment, while Wood was 2011 finalist for entrepreneur of the year.

She said: "I am incredibly proud as to have won these two awards and I am looking forward to taking part in the national finals as an ambassador for the south of England. I hope my success will inspire more women to become directors as I feel there is a shortage in this country."

Wood received her award at a ceremony at London's Landmark Hotel attended by 300 people.

Rodger Broad, director for the IoD in the South East, said: "The IoD London and the South director of the year awards serve to remind people just how talented and driven our region's business leaders are."

"The South East is the powerhouse of the UK economy and the efforts of directors such as Sonja and our other winners, along with many, many others around the region, will help drive the UK's economic recovery."

"Her success in this year's awards is just reward for her hard work and vision and I congratulate her."

SKILFUL KENT



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SKILFUL KENT

INNOVATION

Enterprising trainers are needed to help meet demand for new international qualification

DEVELOPERS are on the hunt for training providers to help meet demand for a new qualification.

The Real Ideas Organisation's (RIO's) Social Enterprise Qualification (SEQ) was launched at the House of Commons in January and now it needs to find would-be SEQ mentors to train to deliver the qualification across the UK.

The first stand-alone international qualification in social enterprise, SEQ is a new way to recognise and encourage young people and adults working for positive social change.

By focusing on learning through doing, the qualification develops learners' understanding and experience of social enterprise so that with the support of SEQ mentors they can discover how



START: The new qualification was launched in Parliament at the start of the year

to balance people, planet and profit for themselves.

Since its successful pilot in 2010-11, SEQ has been taken up by learners nationwide. RIO relies on its network of training providers to offer the essential

training SEQ mentors need, to support these learners through the qualification process.

With interest in SEQ already surpassing expectations, the team is searching for new organisations with specific

skills and experience delivering work-related learning programmes interested in joining its second raft of training providers. Providers get a whole host of benefits, from the financial return of

running training to the opportunities that come from engaging with a growing and buoyant business sector.

Paula Winzar, RIO lead developer and creator of SEQ, said: "We rely on our excellent

training providers to make SEQ happen and we're excited about getting more organisations practised in working with young people, communities and volunteers onboard. There's a clear financial incentive to becoming an SEQ training provider, but for many of the organisations we work with it's about more than that.

"They want to network with schools and youth organisations and reach new audiences but most of all help young people to become the change-making social entrepreneurs of the future."

For those successfully-selected organisations, SEQ's recruitment drive marks an opportunity to become part of an innovative venture that is changing the face and future of social enterprise.

TRAINING

Apprentice Abbey is picking up skills while she works

DON'T tell Sir Alan Sugar, but there's a new apprentice in town – 17-year-old Abbey Brown has joined Kent Science Park-based health and safety consultancy The Bradley Group as its full-time trainee.

Foregoing the traditional A-level route, Abbey is opting instead to join the workforce and learn practical business skills from the thriving Sittingbourne business.

Abbey, who lives in Sheppey, left Fulston Manor School earlier this year after deciding she wanted to go down the on-the-job training route, having attended an apprenticeship day at Sheppey College.

She then spoke to a career adviser, who put her forward for the role at The Bradley Group, and she ended up being successfully chosen from the 20 or so applicants who applied for the position.

Abbey spoke about her delight at getting the job and her future ambitions: "I'm extremely excited about the job here. When I first spoke

to an adviser about undertaking an apprenticeship, they asked me what areas I was looking to develop my career in. I said I was keen to learn about business and administration and that I liked working with numbers.

"They suggested I go for the role at The Bradley Group as it would be a great place to develop my skills and increase my knowledge.

"I think I'm settling into my role quite well, but it's still early days. Everyone on the team has been extremely welcoming and made me feel like part of the family already. It's such a lovely environment to be working in."

Jan Mills, managing director at The Bradley Group, said of Abbey and her new role in the team: "We're thrilled Abbey will be joining our team at The Bradley Group.

"She stood out in her interviews by showing enthusiasm, determination and willingness to learn. It's important to me that Abbey's apprenticeship allows her to experience all elements of the business.

"We've already arranged for her to

go out and shadow one of our consultants so she can get a feel of what we do for our clients.

"She'll also be sitting in on training courses, so she can see what they entail, and I'm planning for her to spend some time getting to know our finance, HR and marketing systems.

"We want her to learn skills that she'll use for the rest of her career – we're not going to be expecting her to just sort the mail and get tea."

James Speck, site director at Kent Science Park, said: "It's wonderful to see The Bradley Group going from strength to strength, especially with the addition of Abbey to their team.

"It's outstanding that they've taken on an apprentice as it is vital that we all keep creating job opportunities for younger generations, and working for a flourishing organisation like The Bradley Group will give Abbey the chance to gain valuable experience in a company that's continuing to grow and develop."

IN TRAINING: Abbey Brown has begun an apprenticeship with The Bradley Group



**TO ADVERTISE:**TELEPHONE: **01303 817040**FAX: **01303 817004**EMAIL: **appointments@kosmedia.co.uk**

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The Spencer Wing is the independently owned and managed 22 bed private hospital situated on the QEOM Hospital site. We also have a 5 bed unit at the William Harvey Hospital in Ashford. The continuing growth of our business has resulted a vacancy for the following staff:

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Closing date for applications - Friday 27 April 2012

Qualifications
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To discuss this opportunity or to arrange an informal visit please contact:
Paul Parish 01843 234555 x 63316

For job description and application form please contact:
Jo Edwards
East Kent Medical Services Ltd
The Spencer Wing, QEOM Hospital
Ramsgate Road, Margate
Kent CT9 4BG
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Fax: 01843 296333
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The Spencer Wing is an equal opportunity employer
This position is subject to a Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure check

To advertise in this section **01303 817056**



Alzheimer's and Dementia Support Services is a registered charity based in Northfleet, which supports people with dementia and their carers in Dartford, Gravesham & Swanley.

We have been awarded funding for three new projects and we are recruiting for the following posts:

Dementia Café Facilitator - 14 hours per week - £6,930 per annum - Fixed contract to 31/3/2014

There are three dementia cafés presently running monthly in Dartford, Gravesend & Swanley. This post will facilitate these cafés and set up another two cafés in the local area. Dementia Cafés allow open discussion of dementia and its consequences in an informal, social environment in the presence of, and supported by, peers. The person appointed will organise, and facilitate, the cafés which provide a mix of speakers, entertainment and socialising.

Peer Support Facilitator - 18 hours per week - £8,907 per annum - Fixed contract to 31/3/2014

This post will set up two Dementia Peer support groups, one in Dartford & one in Gravesham. The groups will run twice a month in each venue. The aim of the role will be to facilitate structured group sessions to discuss their diagnosis of dementia and its consequences in an informal environment in the presence of, and supported by, their peers. The aim is to learn from each other about key areas of concern, experienced symptoms & coping mechanisms.

Dementia Buddy Service - 26 hours per week - £12,866 per annum - Fixed Contract to 31/3/2013

This post will set up, and run, a new service at Darent Valley Hospital. This successful applicant will recruit, train & support volunteers to assist patients with dementia in the hospital by providing social interaction, cognitive stimulation and encouragement with eating & drinking.

All posts are subject to a satisfactory Criminal Record Bureau (CRB) check & references. It is expected that applicants will have significant experience of working with people with dementia in a professional setting, managing projects as well as experience of working with volunteers.

For application forms and further information, please call **01474 533990** or email adminadss@btconnect.com

Closing date for completed applications is 27th April, 2012.

Interviews will take place in the week commencing 7th May 2012.



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Young Person's Named Drugs Worker (YOT)

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Based in Medway, you will manage a caseload of young people, aged 10 – 18 years, who are involved in the Youth Offending Service, are misusing drugs and/or alcohol and experiencing complex difficulties. These may include concerns around mental health, safeguarding, homelessness, offending and chaotic substance misuse.

We are looking for someone with good substance misuse knowledge, excellent communication and casework skills and proven experience of working with young people presenting with complex needs.

Possession of, or working towards, a relevant professional qualification is essential as is having a car and a full clean driving licence.

Application forms and job descriptions can be downloaded from www.kca.org.uk. You can also email recruitment@kca.org.uk or call 01795 590795 and select option three. Please quote reference number 919 in your application.

Closing date: Monday 23 April 2012. Interview date: TBC

KCA (UK) is committed to the principles of equality of opportunity for all and welcomes applications from people with experience of substance use or who have had previous problems with substance misuse. Charity No: 292824

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PUBLIC/ COMMUNITY APPOINT



"We grow people"

Abbey Court School provides a stimulating, challenging and safe learning environment where pupils and staff efforts, work and achievement are celebrated.

We are currently looking for a

Key Stage Leader
commencing Sept 2012 to lead a Key Stage in this progressive school for pupils with severe and profound learning difficulties.

MPS/UPS + TLR 2 (£6,196) + 2 SEN Points
(depending on experience)

The school is located in pleasant surroundings and we have educational resources of enviable proportions. Applications are invited from experienced special school teachers or those with an interest in developing management skills within a specialist context. Comprehensive induction and training will be provided. Telephone enquiries and informal visits to the school welcomed.

Due to the conditions and complex needs of the pupils at Abbey Court School, continuity and consistency of support is paramount and therefore candidates for all positions will need to commit to the full working hours of the post.

This school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of appointment for post is subject to a satisfactory Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure.

Closing Date: 27th April 2012

Interviews will be held on 16th May 2012

For further details and a job description, please contact Linda Taylor, Abbey Court School, Rede Court Road, Strood, Kent ME2 3SP (Tel: 01634 338236), stating the position for which you are applying.

PLANNING

THE MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL Town and Country Planning Act Notice of Applications

MA/12/0250/S - CHARTER HOUSE, CHART CORNER, CHART SUTTON, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 3SB - Erection of fencing. **Reason: 1**

MA/12/0430/N - 261, WILLINGTON STREET, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME15 8EP - Loft conversion involving extension of hipped roof to form half-hip on north side and installation of a front dormer. **Reason: 1**

MA/12/0438/S - THE WEAVERS, GREEN LANE, LANGLEY, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 3JW - Erection of a two storey extension to existing bungalow for extra family accommodation. **Reason: 1**

MA/12/0458/S - LAND AT, WATER LANE, HUNTON, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME15 0SG - Erection of an open-fronted four bay agricultural pole barn. **Reason: 1**

MA/12/0508/S - 12, LOWER FANT ROAD, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME16 8EA - Retention of ground floor rear conservatory and erection of two storey side extension. **Reason: 1**

MA/12/0513/N - LEEDS CASTLE, ASHFORD ROAD, HOLLINGBOURNE, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 1PL - Re-erection of former picnic shelter building in new location. **Reason: 1**

MA/12/0522/S - BRIDGE HOUSE, HIGH STREET, YALDING, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME18 6HS - An application for listed building consent for the installation of a wood burning stove and chimney flue liner. **Reason: 3**

MA/12/0548/S - THE WHITE BARN, GREEN LANE, YALDING, TONBRIDGE, KENT, TN12 9RB - Erection of a single storey extension to the south west elevation, alterations to fenestration and installation of flues, plus extension to bungalow. **Reason: 1**

MA/12/0549/S - THE WHITE BARN, GREEN LANE, YALDING, TONBRIDGE, KENT, TN12 9RB - Application for listed building consent for single storey extension to south west elevation, alterations to fenestration, installation of flues and internal alterations. **Reason: 3**

MA/12/0550/S - SOMERFIELD HOUSE, 59, LONDON ROAD, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME16 8JH - An application for a new planning permission to replace extant permission MA/08/1665 (Change of use and conversion to 12 residential flats) in order to extend the time limit for implementation. **Reason: 1, 6**

Reasons for advertisement key:

- 1 - Applications affects the setting of a Listed Building.
- 3 - Application is for Listed Building Consent.
- 6 - Application is Major Development.



Copies of applications listed may be seen at Maidstone Gateway, Maidstone during office hours (Monday to Wednesday 8.30am to 5.30pm, Thursday 8.30am to 7pm, Friday 8.30am to 5.30pm and Saturday 9am to 1pm). Any representations should be made in writing to me by no later than **29th April 2012**, quoting the application number.

Rob Jarman, Head of Development Management, Maidstone Borough Council, Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6JQ. **Dated:** 15th April 2012

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION

NOTICE UNDER ARTICLE 13 OF THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) (ENGLAND) ORDER 2010

**KCC/CA/0096/2012 - Proposed development at
Oldridge Wood Lagoons, Swanton Lane, Off
Canterbury Road, Littlebourne, Canterbury, Kent,
CT3 4AX.**

Starnes (Canterbury) Ltd is applying to Kent County Council (as the Waste Planning Authority) for planning permission for the infilling of open lagoons formerly used for the disposal of tannery wastes.

PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) ACT 1990

**KCC/CA/0100/2012 - Proposed development at St
Alphege CE Infant School, Oxford Street,
Whitstable, Kent, CT5 1DA.**

KCC Property & Infrastructure Support is applying to Kent County Council for planning permission for the replacement of 16 no. white painted, soft wood timber vertical sliding sash windows with white finish aluminium facing units to match the existing fenestration. The proposed development is within the Whitstable Town Conservation Area and is likely to affect its character and/or appearance, and may also affect the setting of a listed building.

You may view these applications at Canterbury City Council, Canterbury Main Office, Military Road, Canterbury, Kent, CT1 1YW.

NOTICE UNDER ARTICLE 13(3) OF APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION ACCOMPANIED BY AN ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT

**KCC/SH/0381/2011 - Proposed development at
Dungeness Borrow Pit, Dungeness, Romney Marsh,
Kent, TN29 9NA.**

EDF Energy Nuclear Generation Ltd and the Environment Agency has submitted further environmental information under regulation (22) of the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2011 in support of application reference KCC/SH/0381/2011 for shingle recycling for the purpose of flood defence. The original application was accompanied by an environmental statement. The proposed development is within the Dungeness Conservation Area and is likely to affect its character and/or appearance. The proposed development also affects a public right of way.

You may view copies of the further information at Shepway District Council, Civic Centre, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, Kent CT20 2QY or at the One Stop Service Lydd, Guildhall, Lydd, Kent TN29 9AJ.

Members of the public may obtain copies of the environmental statement from Halcrow Group, Burderop Park, Swindon, SN4 0QD Tel: 01793 816360 so long as stocks last, at a reasonable charge.

Alternatively, details of all applications can be viewed on Kent County Council's website at www.kent.gov.uk/viewapplications or at our offices in Maidstone at the address below during all reasonable office hours.

We accept comments online via our website, by email to planning.applications@kent.gov.uk or in writing to Planning Applications Group, Kent County Council, First Floor, Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1XX within 21 days from the date of this notice. Please quote the application reference number and note that comments may be drawn to the attention of Council Members, the applicant and other interested persons and may include publishing on the Borough/District Council website.

Sharon Thompson
Head of Planning
Applications Group
Kent County Council
Dated: 15 April 2012



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PLANNING



Planning applications

Notice under Article 8 of the Town & Country Planning (General Development Procedure) Order 1995
Notice under Section 67 and/or Section 73 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990
Notice under Regulation 5 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Regulations 1990
Notice under Regulation 5A of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2004

The following applications have been submitted for consideration by the council:

CA/12/00111/FUL: Erasmus House and Old Sessions House, Canterbury Christ Church University, Canterbury Installation of roof mounted solar panels. Applicant: Canterbury Christ Church University Reason: Conservation area.
CA/12/00112/FUL: Rochester House, Canterbury Christ Church University, St Georges Place, Canterbury, CT1 1UT Installation of roof mounted solar panels. Applicant: Canterbury Christ Church University Reason: Conservation area.
CA/12/00189/FUL: 37 Nelson Road, Whitstable, CT5 1EA Replacement front door. Applicant: Mr Gawler Reason: Conservation area.
CA/12/00243/ADV: 43-45 St George's Place, Canterbury, CT1 1UP Installation of internally illuminated fascia sign to front and side elevation. Applicant: Odeon Cinema Reason: Conservation area.
CA/12/00296/FUL: Thorley Taverns, The Bandstand, Central Parade, Herne Bay, CT6 5JN Addition of take-away (Use Class A5) to existing mixed use drinking establishment and cafe/restaurant (Use Classes A4 and A3) and associated new servery to inner side of west wing. Applicant: Mr R Ali Reason: Conservation area.
CA/12/00315/FUL: 56 Heaton Road, Canterbury, CT1 3PY Single-storey side extension. Applicant: Mrs G Freeman Reason: Conservation area.
CA/12/00358/FUL: 34 Island Wall, Whitstable, CT5 1EP Demolition of two-storey rear extension and erection of replacement two-storey extension with dormer window and accommodation in roofspace, (Revised Scheme). Applicant: Mrs Nearn Reason: Conservation area.
CA/12/00411/FUL: Wickham Lodge, Wickham Court Lane, Wickhambreau, CT3 1RZ Orangery to rear elevation. Applicant: Mr and Mrs Devereux Reason: Conservation area.
CA/12/00434/FUL: 12 St Dunstons Court, London Road, Canterbury, CT2 8LU Replacement windows and door. Applicant: Mr Chambers Reason: Conservation area.
CA/12/00455/FUL: Block A, St Andrew's Close, Canterbury Erection of a four-storey building comprising 12 residential apartments with associated undercroft parking and external works. Applicant: Jenner (Contractors) Ltd and Hyde Housing Association Reason: Major development.
CA/12/00474/NAR: Land adjacent to Fieldway House, Field Way, Sturry, CT2 0BH Variation of condition 11 of planning permission CA/10/1020/FUL relating to the code for sustainable homes. Applicant: Jacob Builders Ltd Reason: Conservation area.
CA/12/00482/FUL: 26A Stour Street, Canterbury, CT1 2NZ Change of use from office (Use Class B1) to non-residential complementary health clinic (Use Class D1). Applicant: Canterbury Acupuncture Reason: Conservation area.
CA/12/00486/FUL: 12/13 Sun Street, Canterbury, CT1 2HX Change of use of ground-floor to restaurant/cafe (Use Class A3) in association with existing first-floor restaurant/cafe use. Applicant: K M Catering Ltd Reason: Conservation area.
CA/12/00487/FUL: 2 South Lodge Close, Whitstable, CT5 2AD Rebuilding of part of existing house including alterations to listed wall. Applicant: Mr and Mrs Fanciulli Reason: Conservation area.
CA/12/00488/LB: 2 South Lodge Close, Whitstable, CT5 2AD Rebuilding of part of existing house including alterations to listed wall. Applicant: Mr and Mrs Fanciulli Reason: Work to a listed building.

Any representations should be sent in writing to the Head of Planning and Regeneration, Canterbury City Council, Military Road, Canterbury CT1 1YW or e-mailed to development.control@canterbury.gov.uk to arrive on or before Monday 7 May 2012.

The weekly list of applications can be viewed on our website at: www.canterbury.gov.uk/dc

Ian Brown, Head of Planning and Regeneration
Friday 13 April 2012

Town and Country Planning Acts

The Council is required to give notice of the following applications

12/00917/HOUSE The Barn Haymans Hill, Horsmonden
- Alterations to patio and garden areas; Fenestration alterations (LB)

12/00918/LBC The Barn Haymans Hill, Horsmonden
- Listed Building Consent - Alterations to patio and garden areas; Fenestration alterations (LB)

12/00619/HOUSE 10 Brewer Street Lamberhurst
- Installation of P.V. solar panels on roof to front elevation (CA)

12/00248/HOUSE Wingrove Cottage Queen Street, Paddock Wood
- Pitched roof side and rear extensions; New parking area and vehicular access onto Lucks Lane (LB)

12/00942/FUL The Pantiles Hotel The Pantiles, Pantiles & St Marks
- Remove existing internal brick/steel piers and add decorative columns, reduce raised floor level by 300mm (shaped area) to allow disabled access, alter internal layout to include disabled wc on lower ground floor level. Alter Pantiles elevation to painted hardwood sliding folding doors (LB) (CA)

12/00943/LBC The Pantiles Hotel The Pantiles, Pantiles & St Marks
- Listed building consent - Remove existing internal brick/steel piers and add decorative columns, reduce raised floor level by 300mm (shaped area) to allow disabled access, alter internal layout to include disabled wc on lower ground floor level. Alter Pantiles elevation to painted hardwood sliding folding doors (LB)

12/00836/FUL Abbeyfield Society Ltd Abbeyfield House, Park
- Demolition of existing garage and construction of new garage with residents' accommodation on two floor levels above with first floor windows to front and garden (north west and south east) elevations and second floor window to side (south west) second floor dormer to front (north west) elevation and second floor balcony to garden and side (south east and south west) elevations (CA)

12/00875/HOUSE Boxhurst Oast Boxhurst, Sandhurst
- Alterations and repositioning of main access doorway, erection of enclosure walls and erection of garage (LB)

12/00879/LBC Boxhurst Oast Boxhurst, Sandhurst
- Listed Building Consent - Alterations and repositioning of main access doorway, erection of enclosure walls and erection of garage (LB)

12/00880/HOUSE Sponden Old Hall Sponden Lane, Sandhurst
- Single storey rear extension as garden room to replace conservatory and reduction of chimney stack (LB)

12/00881/LBC Sponden Old Hall Sponden Lane, Sandhurst
- Listed building consent - single storey rear extension as garden room to replace conservatory and reduction of chimney stack (LB)

12/00908/FULMJ Owl House, Trenley Farm, Sissinghurst C/O Cranbrook Parish
- Erection of two stables with ancillary storage and associated grazing land. Extension of existing garage to provide haystore. Addition of log store to existing dwelling. Realignment of access drive (MAJOR) (LB)

12/00913/LBC Owl House, Trenley Farm, Sissinghurst C/O Cranbrook Parish
- Listed Building Consent - Erection of two stables with ancillary storage and associated grazing land; Extension of existing garage to provide haystore; Addition of log store to existing dwelling; Realignment of access drive (LB)

(DEVPLN) Departure from the Development Plan (PROW) Affecting A Public Right of Way (CA) Affecting a Conservation Area (LB) Affecting a Listed Building (MAJOR) Major Applications (MAST) Mast Applications (EIA) Applications Accompanied by an EIA Statement.

You may view these applications on our website (www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk) at, the The Old Fire Station, Stone Street, Cranbrook or at Gateway, 8 Grosvenor Road, Tunbridge Wells.

We accept comments online, by email to planningcomments@tunbridgewells.gov.uk or in writing to the address below. Comments should be made within 21 days from the date of this notice, although we may accept them after this date.

You should quote the reference and be aware that we make all comments available for inspection, placing them on the file and publishing them on the internet. We do not publish signatures, telephone numbers or email addresses on the internet.

Jim Kehoe
Head of Planning Services
Town Hall, Royal Tunbridge Wells TN1 1RS

Dated: 14 April 2012



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Public Notice

8 April 2012



Notice under Section 122(2A) Local Government Act 1972

Proposed appropriation of land at Kingsmead from open space to planning purposes

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Canterbury City Council intends to appropriate open space land at Kingsmead Canterbury, for planning purposes under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended). The area of land to be appropriated is described in the Schedule to this notice.

Members of the public who wish comment or object to the proposal should send their comments or objections to Mark Ellender, Legal and Democratic Services, Canterbury City Council, Military Road, Canterbury Kent CT1 1YW in writing by 22 April 2012.

A plan identifying the land which the council is considering appropriating to planning purposes can be viewed at the council offices during normal opening hours.

SCHEDULE

1.912 hectares of land comprising of land adjoining Kingsmead Road, Broad Oak Road, Stonebridge Road and Ambleside Place.

Colin Carmichael, Chief Executive
Canterbury City Council
Military Road
Canterbury CT1 1YW



THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) (ENGLAND) ORDER 2010

The following applications have been submitted for consideration by the Council:

Y12/01777/SH# - Manor House Straight Lane Brookland Romney Marsh Kent - Alterations to outbuilding, including installation of two new windows to south elevation, in connection with conversion of outbuilding to provide living accommodation for use as an annexe to main dwelling.

Y12/0169/SH# - Manor House Straight Lane Brookland Romney Marsh Kent - Alterations and conversion of outbuilding to provide living accommodation for use as an annexe to main dwelling, including installation of two new windows to south elevation.

Y12/0302/SH - 134 Sandgate Road Folkestone Kent CT20 2BX - Display of an internally illuminated fascia sign, externally illuminated projecting banking sign, ATM header panel and wall mounted sign.

Y12/0303/SH - 134 Sandgate Road Folkestone Kent CT20 2BX - Listed building consent for the installation of various signs.

Y12/0203/SH+ - Land adjoining 9 Victoria Road (formerly 1 Park Road) Hythe Kent - Extension to time limit of planning permission Y09/0104/SH for the erection of 7 two storey dwelling houses and 1 maisonette apartment with associated parking.

Y12/0315/SH - Selsted Farm Yard Stockham Lane Selsted Kent - Extension to time limit of planning permission Y09/0582/SH for the change of use and conversion of existing cart shed, stables and long barn to office (Class B1) use, replacement of Atcost barn with new building for equine vets use (Class D1), erection of new build office building (Class B1a), together with associated stable block, bike store and parking area.

Y12/0333/SH - The Old School School Lane Newington Folkestone Kent - Conversion of an existing store into ancillary living accommodation.

Y12/0313/SH+ - Old Dairy Cottage The Green Saltwood Hythe Kent - Various pruning works to six trees situated within a conservation area.

Y12/0336/SH+ - Oak Bank 2 Tanners Hill Hythe Kent CT21 5UE - Felling of two Cypress trees situated within a conservation area followed by the planting of two replacement native trees.

Any representations should be made in writing to the Head of Planning, Shepway District Council, Civic Centre, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, Kent, CT20 2QY or emailed to planning@shepway.gov.uk. Comments should be made in writing within 21 days from the date of publication. It should be noted that any representations received will be made available for public inspection.

Some applications can be viewed at other locations in addition to the Civic Centre, Folkestone. The applications are marked as follows:

- The One Stop Shop, Magpies, Church Approach, New Romney

+ - Hythe Town Council Offices, Stade Street, Hythe

Applications can be viewed and comments made online at <http://searchplanapps.shepway.gov.uk/online-applications/>.

The applications marked (*) do not accord with the provisions of the development plan in force in the area in which the land to which the application relates is situated.

C Lewis, Head of Planning
Shepway District Council



TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990
PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) ACT 1990

Swale Borough Council as Local Planning Authority has received the following applications which are being advertised to ascertain the views of persons living near the sites and other interested parties. The proposed developments relate to one or more of the following:

1. The site of the application is within/affecting a designated Conservation Area (Section 73) of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990.
2. The proposed development may affect the Listed Building or it's setting.
3. The application is for a Major Development.
4. The application would affect a right of way to which Part III of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) applies.
6. This application may be of wider public interest.

REPRESENTATIONS IN RESPECT OF THE FOLLOWING APPLICATIONS MUST BE MADE BY 30th APRIL 2012

SW/11/1371:

Adding traditional 6 Kentish wooden weather board to exterior of non listed property weather board painted in exterior matt white - Park House, The Street, BREDGAR; REASON 1

SW/12/0024:

Variation of condition (i) of planning permission NK/8/61/83 to extend occupancy period from eight to ten months (1st March to 2nd January) - Plough Leisure Caravan Park, Plough Road, MINSTER; REASON 3

SW/12/0183:

Change of use of land for the siting of 2 mobile homes for 2 gypsy families with associated utility blocks, parking for vehicles including touring caravans, services and boundary fence - Land North of Plantation Lodge Farm (known as Highview), School Lane, IWADE; REASON 4

SW/12/0260:

Outline planning application to erect detached, semi-detached and terraced dwellings and associated garages, layout parking and amenity areas, estate roads, footpaths and landscaping - Former School Site, East Hall Farm, SITTINGBOURNE; REASON 3

SW/12/0322:

Erection of workshop to replace polytunnel and container - Conyer Creek Marina and Boatyard, North Quay, CONYER; REASON 6

SW/12/0323:

Replacement of fascias and rainwater goods with UPVC - Westcombe, 8 Roman Road, FAVERSHAM; REASON 1

SW/12/0364 &

SW/12/0427:

Renewal of planning permission SW/08/1169 and Listed Building Consent SW/08/1170 for redevelopment of East Hall Farm, including the conversion and internal alterations to East Hall Farmhouse and outbuildings, to provide 11 dwellings, 26 car spaces. Private and communal areas of open space and landscaping - East Hall Farm, East Hall Lane, SITTINGBOURNE; REASONS 2, 3 and 4

SW/12/0373:

Amended application (SW/10/1512) for loft extension to include conservation rooflight on rear elevation - 22 Kings Road, FAVERSHAM; REASON 1

SW/12/0380:

Amendments to listed building consent SW/09/0284 (Change of use, conversion and extension to first floor to provide 4 one bed flats) by substituting brickwork approval at first floor level at rear for weatherboarding - 39 High Street, SITTINGBOURNE; REASON 2

SW/12/0390 &

SW/12/0391:

Demolition and replacement of rear garden room - 34 London Road, FAVERSHAM; REASON 1

SW/12/0392:

Variation of condition 16 of planning permission SW/04/1051 to permit 24-hour use for petrol sales only - Milton Regis Service Station, St Paul's Street/King Street, Milton Regis, SITTINGBOURNE; REASON 3

SW/12/0398:

Advertisement consent for 1 internally illuminated wall mounted display unit - Co-op, 97 High Street, SITTINGBOURNE; REASON 1

SW/12/0399:

Advertisement consent for one internally illuminated wall mounted display unit - Co-op, 3 The Street, UPCHURCH; REASON 1

SW/12/0409:

Repairs to existing oak frame, timber windows and tiled roof, and internal alterations and repairs including relocation of kitchen - Forge Cottage, The Street, LYNSTED; REASONS 1 & 2

Particulars of the proposal(s) can be obtained from Planning Services, Swale Borough Council, Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, where copies of the applications and all documents submitted with them may be inspected during office hours; any representations should be made in writing to this address.

James Freeman

Head of Development Services

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PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY & VILLAGE GREENS

PROW - IN THE BOROUGH OF ASHFORD**NOTICE OF CONFIRMATION OF PUBLIC PATH ORDER****HIGHWAYS ACT 1980****WILDLIFE AND COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1981****THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL****(PUBLIC FOOTPATH AW150 (PART) PLUCKLEY)****PUBLIC PATH DIVERSION AND DEFINITIVE MAP AND STATEMENT MODIFICATION ORDER 2012**

On 3 April 2012 the Kent County Council confirmed the above Order under section 119 of the Highways Act 1980. The effect of the Order as confirmed is to divert the entire width of that length of Public Footpath numbered AW150 which commences at its junction with the unaffected length of Public Footpath AW150 at NGR TQ 9173 4398 (Point A) and runs in a south south westerly direction for 115 metres thence southerly for 70 metres to its connection with Chambers Green Road at NGR TQ 9167 4380 (Point B) and to provide a new length of Public Footpath numbered AW150 which commences at its junction with the unaffected length of Public Footpath AW150 at NGR TQ 9173 4398 (Point A) and runs in a west south westerly direction for 18 metres, south westerly for 132 metres thence southerly for 5 metres to a new connection with Chambers Green Road at NGR TQ 9163 4386 (Point C). The new length of path will have a width of 2.0 metres except where it connects with Chambers Green Road at NGR TQ 9163 4386 (Point C) where there will be a gap of 1.0 metre. The new length of path will be situated 1.0 metre from the boundary except for the first 18 metres from NGR TQ 9173 4398 (Point A) and the last 5 metres towards NGR TQ 9163 4386 (Point C).

All directions general, all distances approximate.

A copy of the Order as confirmed and the Order Map have been placed and may be seen free of charge during normal office hours at the offices of Ashford Borough Council, Ashford Gateway Plus, Church Road, Ashford, Kent, TN23 1AS or at the Countryside Access Service at Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX. A copy of the Order and Map may be purchased there.

The Order comes into force on 1 May 2012, but if a person aggrieved by the Order wants to question the validity, or that of any provision contained in it, on the ground that it is not within the powers of the Highways Act 1980, as amended, or on the ground that any requirement of the Act, as amended, or of any regulation made under the Act which has not been complied with in relation to the Order, he or she may under Paragraph 2 of Schedule 2 to the Act as applied by Paragraph 5 of Schedule 6 to the Act, within 6 weeks from the 15 April 2012, make an application to the High Court.

PROW - IN THE DISTRICT OF SEVENOAKS**NOTICE OF CONFIRMATION OF MODIFICATION ORDER****WILDLIFE AND COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1981****DEFINITIVE MAP AND STATEMENT FOR THE COUNTY OF KENT****THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (PUBLIC FOOTPATH SD47 (PART) HORTON KIRBY & SOUTH DARENTH)****DEFINITIVE MAP MODIFICATION ORDER 2012**

On 3 April 2012 the Kent County Council confirmed the above Order.

The effect of the Order as confirmed is to modify the Definitive Map and Statement for the area by deleting that length of Public Footpath SD47 which commences at its junction with Gill's Road at NGR TQ 5836 6994 (Point A) and runs in a northerly direction for 53 metres to NGR TQ 5837 7000 (Point B) and adding that length of Public Footpath SD47 with a width of 1.2 metres which commences at its junction with Gill's Road at NGR TQ 5836 6994 (Point A) and runs in a north north easterly direction for 57 metres to its connection with the unaffected length of Public Footpath SD47 at NGR TQ 5838 7000 (Point C).

All distances are approximate, all directions are general.

A copy of the Order as confirmed and Map may be seen free of charge during normal office hours at the offices of Sevenoaks District Council, PO Box 183, Argyle Road, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN13 1HG or at the Kent County Council, Countryside Access Service, Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1XX. Copies of the Order and map may also be purchased there.

This Order became operative as from 3 April 2012 but if

a person aggrieved by the Order desires to question the validity thereof or of any provision contained therein on the grounds that it is not within the powers of Section 53(3)(c)(i) or 53(3)(c)(iii) of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, or that any of the requirements of Schedule 15 to the Act have not been complied with in relation to the confirmation of the Order, he may, under Paragraph 12 of Schedule 15 to the Act, within 42 days from 15 April 2012 make an application for the purpose to the High Court.

PROW - IN THE BOROUGH OF SWALE**NOTICE OF THE INTENTION TO MAKE AN ORDER TO TEMPORARILY CLOSE PUBLIC FOOTPATH ZS1,****IN THE PARISH OF MINSTER ON SEA****PUBLIC FOOTPATH ZS1, MINSTER****(PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012****ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984, SECTION 14(3), AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Kent County Council intends to temporarily close part of Public Footpath ZS1 between Kent Avenue and The Broadway from the 30th April 2012.

The path will be closed for a maximum of six months, although it is expected that the proposed works will take 3 weeks and will be completed by 20 July 2012.

The path is to be closed because works are planned on or near it and there is a likelihood of danger to users.

The alternative route is via Kent Avenue and The Broadway and will be signed for the duration of the closure.

For detailed enquiries please contact: Michael Ellis

PROW - IN THE DISTRICT OF THANET**NOTICE OF THE MAKING OF AN ORDER TO TEMPORARILY CLOSE PUBLIC FOOTPATH TMX13 IN MARGATE****PUBLIC FOOTPATH TMX13****(PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012****ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984, SECTION 14(3) AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Kent County Council has temporarily closed Public Footpath TMX13 between Hartsdown Road and NGR TR 349 700 a distance of approximately 170 metres from the 2nd April 2012

The path will be closed for a maximum of six months.

The path is to be closed because works are planned on and near it and there is a likelihood of danger to users.

The alternative route is via a temporary diversion located 25 metres east of TMX13 which will be signed for the duration of the closure.

For detailed enquiries please contact: Louise Adams

PROW - IN THE BOROUGH OF TONBRIDGE & MALLING**NOTICE OF CONFIRMATION OF MODIFICATION ORDER WILDLIFE AND COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1981****DEFINITIVE MAP AND STATEMENT FOR THE COUNTY OF KENT****THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (PUBLIC FOOTPATH MR183 (PART) TROTTSCLIFFE)****DEFINITIVE MAP MODIFICATION ORDER 2012**

On 3 April 2012 the Kent County Council confirmed the above Order.

The effect of the Order as confirmed is to modify the Definitive Map and Statement for the area by deleting that length of Public Footpath MR183 which commences on the unaffected length of Public Footpath MR183 at NGR TQ 6512 6015 (Point A) and runs in a south easterly direction for 195 metres to NGR TQ 6524 6000 (Point B) and adding that length of Public Footpath MR183 which commences on the unaffected length of Public Footpath MR183 at NGR TQ 6512 6015 (Point A) and runs in a south easterly direction for 217 metres to its connection with the unaffected length of Public Footpath MR183 at NGR TQ 6528 6000 (Point C). The added length of footpath has a width of 1.2 metres.

All distances are approximate, all directions are general.

A copy of the Order as confirmed and Map may be seen free of charge during normal office hours at the offices

of Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council, Gibson Building, Gibson Drive, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent, ME19 4LZ or at the Kent County Council, Countryside Access Service, Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1XX. Copies of the Order and map may also be purchased there.

This Order became operative as from 3 April 2012 but if a person aggrieved by the Order desires to question the validity thereof or of any provision contained therein on the grounds that it is not within the powers of Section 53(3)(c)(i) or 53(3)(c)(iii) of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, or that any of the requirements of Schedule 15 to the Act have not been complied with in relation to the confirmation of the Order, he may, under Paragraph 12 of Schedule 15 to the Act, within 42 days from 15 April 2012 make an application for the purpose to the High Court.

PROW - IN THE BOROUGH OF TUNBRIDGE WELLS**NOTICE OF CONFIRMATION OF MODIFICATION ORDER WILDLIFE AND COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1981****DEFINITIVE MAP AND STATEMENT FOR THE COUNTY OF KENT****THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (PUBLIC FOOTPATH WT82 (PART) SPELDHURST)****DEFINITIVE MAP MODIFICATION ORDER 2012**

On 3 April 2012 the Kent County Council confirmed the above Order.

The effect of the Order as confirmed is to modify the Definitive Map and Statement for the area by deleting that length of Public Footpath WT82 which commences on the unaffected length of Public Footpath WT82 at NGR TQ 5421 3985 (Point A) and runs in a north north easterly direction for 160 metres to NGR TQ 5428 4000 (Point B) and adding that length of Public Footpath WT82 with a width of 1.2 metres which commences on the unaffected length of Public Footpath WT82 at NGR TQ 5421 3985 (Point A) and runs in a north easterly direction for 172 metres to its connection with the unaffected length of Public Footpath WT82 at NGR TQ 5430 4000 (Point C).

All distances are approximate, all directions are general.

A copy of the Order as confirmed and Map may be seen free of charge during normal office hours at the offices of The Tunbridge Wells Gateway, 8 Grosvenor Road, Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN1 2AB or at the Kent County Council, Countryside Access Service, Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1XX. Copies of the Order and map may also be purchased there.

This Order became operative as from 3 April 2012 but if a person aggrieved by the Order desires to question the validity thereof or of any provision contained therein on the grounds that it is not within the powers of Section 53(3)(c)(i) or 53(3)(c)(iii) of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, or that any of the requirements of Schedule 15 to the Act have not been complied with in relation to the confirmation of the Order, he may, under Paragraph 12 of Schedule 15 to the Act, within 42 days from 15 April 2012 make an application for the purpose to the High Court.

NOTICE OF CONFIRMATION OF MODIFICATION ORDER WILDLIFE AND COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1981**DEFINITIVE MAP AND STATEMENT FOR THE COUNTY OF KENT****THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (PUBLIC FOOTPATH WT225 (PARTS) BRENCHLEY)****DEFINITIVE MAP MODIFICATION ORDER 2012**

On 3 April 2012 the Kent County Council confirmed the above Order. The effect of the Order as confirmed is to modify the Definitive Map and Statement for the area by

deleting those lengths of Public Footpath WT225 which:-

- i) Commences at its junction with Bramble Reed Lane at NGR TQ 6493 4165 (Point A) and runs in an easterly direction for 64 metres to NGR TQ 6500 4166 (Point B).
- ii) Commences at NGR TQ 6500 4168 (Point C) and runs in a south easterly direction for 30 metres to its connection with the unaffected length of Public Footpath WT225 at NGR TQ 6502 4166 (Point D).
- iii) Commences on the unaffected length of Public Footpath WT225 at NGR TQ 6504 4164 (Point E) and runs in a north easterly direction for 70 metres, thence east north easterly for 20 metres to its connection with the unaffected length of Public Footpath WT225 at NGR TQ 6511 4169 (Point F)

and adding those lengths of Public Footpath WT225 which:-

- i) Commences at a new connection with Bramble Reed Lane, 17 metres north of the aforementioned point A (NGR TQ 6493 4165) at NGR TQ 6493 4167 (Point G) and runs in an easterly direction for 63 metres to NGR TQ 6500 4167 (Point H). The path has a width of 1.2 metres.
- ii) Commences at NGR TQ 6500 4167 (Point H) and runs in an easterly direction for 20 metres to its connection with the unaffected length of Public Footpath WT225 at NGR TQ 6502 4166 (Point D). The path has a width of 1.2 metres.
- iii) Commences on the unaffected length of Public Footpath WT225 at NGR TQ 6504 4164 (Point E) and runs in a south easterly through easterly direction for 30 metres to NGR TQ 6507 4163 (Point J) thence north north easterly for 79 metres to its connection with the unaffected length of Public Footpath WT225 at NGR TQ 6511 4169 (Point F). The path has a width of 1.2 metres between NGR TQ 6504 4164 (Point E) and NGR TQ 6509 4166 (Point K) and a width of 1.6 metres between NGR TQ 6509 4166 (Point K) and NGR TQ 6511 4169 (Point F).

All distances are approximate, all directions are general.

A copy of the Order as confirmed and Map may be seen free of charge during normal office hours at the offices of The Tunbridge Wells Gateway, 8 Grosvenor Road, Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN1 2AB or at the Kent County Council, Countryside Access Service, Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1XX. Copies of the Order and map may also be purchased there.

This Order became operative as from 3 April 2012 but if a person aggrieved by the Order desires to question the validity thereof or of any provision contained therein on the grounds that it is not within the powers of Section 53(3)(c)(i) or 53(3)(c)(iii) of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, or that any of the requirements of Schedule 15 to the Act have not been complied with in relation to the confirmation of the Order, he may, under Paragraph 12 of Schedule 15 to the Act, within 42 days from 15 April 2012 make an application for the purpose to the High Court.

Countryside Access Service
Kent County Council
Invicta House
County Hall
Maidstone
Kent
ME14 1XX

Dated: 15th April 2012

This document is available in alternative formats and can be explained in a range of languages.

For further information, please contact
Kent Countryside Access Service,
on 0845 345 0210 (Mon-Fri 8am-8pm)
or visit www.kent.gov.uk/countrysideaccess



To place your notice here,
call the Kent Public Notice team on

01303 817044

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Ashford

PLUMPTON & GREEN LANE, BRABOURNE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of the installation of a new electricity supply cable, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Plumpton & Green Lane, Brabourne, on or after 17 April 2012 for up to 18 weeks.

PLUMPTON will be closed in phases from the junction with Hampton Lane, working towards Manor Pound Lane.

The alternative route for through traffic is via Hampton Lane, Canterbury Road, Bulltown Lane and Green Lane.

Signage in Quarrington Lane will indicate which direction traffic can travel when it reaches Plumpton.

GREEN LANE will then be closed between the junctions with Plumpton and Manor Pound Lane.

The alternative route is via Bulltown Lane, Brabourne Road and Weekes Lane

The progress of the works will depend on weather and ground conditions, and the specific sections of road to be closed will be notified to local residents and signposted on site.

HIGHWAYS - District of Canterbury

BEST LANE, CANTERBURY (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway and footway improvement works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Best Lane, Canterbury, on or after 16 April 2012 for up to 14 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between High Street and the entrance to Orange Street Car Park.

The alternative route is via High Street, St Peter's Street and The Friars.

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Dartford

COLLER CRESCENT, DARENTH- (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council has made an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic on Collier Crescent, Darenth from Langlands Drive for its entire length.

The Order will become effective on 20th April 2012, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to last 1 week from the hours of 08:00hrs - 17:00hrs. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate Carriageway micro surfacing works.

CRAYLANDS LANE, SWANSCOMBE - (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council has made an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic on Craylands Lane, Swanscombe.

The Order will become effective on 16th April 2012, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to commence between 22:00hrs - 06:00. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: Milton Street, Manor Road, Swanscombe Street, Stanhope Road, High Street and A226 London Road.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (VARIOUS ROADS, DARTFORD) (PROHIBITION OF WAITING) (CONSOLIDATION) (AMENDMENT NO 9) ORDER 2012

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

Notice is hereby given that the KENT COUNTY COUNCIL acting as the local authority and in exercise of their powers under sections 1(1), 2(1) to 3, 3(2), 4(1) and (2), 32(3), 35(1) and 124 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, (hereinafter called "the Act") and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the Chief Officer of Police in accordance with paragraph 20 of Schedule 9 to the said Act of 1984, hereby makes the following Order.

The effect of the first named Order will introduce no waiting at any time (double yellow lines) on the following road or lengths of road;

Littlebrook Manor Way On both sides from its junction with Bob Dunn Way to the junction with Rennie Drive.

Rennie Drive On both sides from its junction with Littlebrook Manor Way to the junction with Marsh Street.

Binnie Road Both sides entire length.

Marsh Street On both sides from its junction with Bob Dunn Way to the entrance to Longreach Sewage Works.

Halcrow Avenue Both sides entire length

The effect of the Order will also introduce no waiting 6.00pm to 6.00am the following day every day (7 days) on Brunel Way for the entire length.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (BINNIE ROAD AND HALCROW AVENUE, DARTFORD) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) ORDER 2012

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

Notice is hereby given that the KENT COUNTY COUNCIL acting as the local authority and in exercise of their powers under sections 1(1) and (2), 2(1) to (3) and 3(2) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, (hereinafter called "the Act") and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the Chief Officer of Police in accordance with paragraph 20 of Schedule 9 to the said Act of 1984, hereby makes the following Order.

The effect of the second named Order will also introduce prohibition of driving on following lengths of road;

Binnie Road From its junction with Marsh Street (roundabout) for its entire length

Halcrow Avenue From its junction with Marsh Street (roundabout) for its entire length

A copy of the Order, which comes into operation 20th April 2012, together with an explanatory statement and a map indicating the location and the effect and a copy of any other Orders which will be amended by the Order may be examined at the Dartford Borough Council offices, Civic Centre, Home Gardens, Dartford and at Kent County Council, Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone during normal opening hours.

Any person wishing to question the validity of the Order or any of the provisions contained therein on the grounds that it is not within the powers of the relevant enabling Act or that any requirement of any such enabling Act or of any regulations made thereunder have not been complied with may within 6 weeks from the date on which the Order was made make application to the High Court for this purpose.

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Gravesham

DEAN LANE, MEOPHAM (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council has made an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic in Dean Lane, Meopham from Swift Farm.

The Order will become effective on 16th April 2012, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to last 3 days. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: White Hill Road and Oakenden Road

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate BT openreach to gain safe access to telegraph pole.

RAPHAEL ROAD, GRAVESEND- (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council has made an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic on Raphael Road, Gravesend between its junction with Waterton Road and Denton Street.

The Order will become effective on 16th April 2012, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to last 7 days. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: Range Road, Elliott Street, Lower Road, Mark Lane and Waterton Avenue

The purpose of the closure is to allow safe access to wet well.

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Gravesham and Dartford

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (A226 THAMES WAY, A2260 (PART) AND A2 (PART) DARTFORD & GRAVESHAM) (24 HOUR CLEARWAY) ORDER 2012

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

Notice is hereby given that the KENT COUNTY COUNCIL acting as the local authority and in exercise of their powers under Sections 1(1), 2(1) and 4(1) of the Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Schedule 9 to the said Act of 1984, hereby makes the following Order:-

The effect of the Order will introduce a clearway on the following road or lengths of road;

1. the A226 road from the Thames Way roundabout junction with Stonebridge Road and Grove Road at Ordnance Survey National Grid reference point TQ6147074704 to its junction with Springhead Road at Ordnance Survey National Grid reference point TQ6238073451;
2. the A2260 road from its junction with the A226 Thames Way at the Ebbsfleet Gateway at Ordnance Survey National Grid reference point TQ6182073888 to the junction with the A2 on slip at the Ebbsfleet Link Roundabout B at Ordnance Survey National Grid reference point TQ6149772779;
3. the spur road from the Southflee Road roundabout junction with the A2260 and the A2 off slip at the Ebbsfleet Link Roundabout C at Ordnance Survey National Grid reference point TQ6124072871 in a westerly direction for a distance of 85 metres to Ordnance Survey National Grid reference point TQ6116472907

Full details of the Order, which comes into operation on 16th April 2012, together with an explanatory statement and a map illustrating the lengths of road concerned may be inspected during normal office hours in the offices of the Dartford Borough Council Civic Centre Home Gardens, Dartford, Kent, DA1 1DR, Gravesham Borough Council Civic Centre, Windmill Street, Gravesend, Kent, DA12 1AU, and Kent County Council, Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone ME14 1XX.

Any person wishing to question the validity of the Order or any of the provisions contained therein on the grounds that it is not within the powers of the relevant enabling Act or that any requirement of any such enabling Act or of any regulations made thereunder have not been complied with may within 6 weeks from the date on which the Order was made make application to the High Court for this purpose.

HIGHWAYS - Boroughs of Maidstone, Tunbridge Wells, Tonbridge & Malling, Gravesham, Dartford and District of Sevenoaks

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (VARIOUS ROADS, MAIDSTONE, TUNBRIDGE WELLS, TONBRIDGE & MALLING, GRAVESHAM, DARTFORD AND SEVENOAKS) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because works are being carried out on or near the road Kent County Council intends to make an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic on the routes described in schedule below.

The Order will become effective on 1st May 2012 and will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months. The dates shown in the schedules are anticipated dates however actual work dates will be displayed by signage on site 7 days in advance. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative routes for the restrictions are also stated in the attached schedules.

The roads in the schedule will need to be re-closed approximately 7 days after original closure to carry out road sweeping and replacement of lines.

Schedule

MAIDSTONE

Maidstone East

Road Name: Bottom Pond Road, Wormshill
Extent: The Street, Wormshill to Bedmonton Lane
Date: 3rd May 2012 for 1 working day between 07.00 - 19.00
Diversion: Via Lime Kiln Road, Bashford Barn Lane, Swanton Street and Court Dane Shaws and Bedmonton Lane and The Street

Road Name: Bedmonton Lane, Wormshill
Extent: From The Street, Wormshill to Court Dane Shaws.
Date: 4th May 2012 for 1 working day between 07.00 - 19.00
Diversion: Via The Street, The Street, Bottom Pond Road, Lime Kiln Road, Bashford Barn Lane, Swanton Street and Court Dane Shaws

Road Name: Clapper Lane, Staplehurst
Extent: A229 Maidstone Road to Marden Road
Date: 6th May 2012 for 1 working day between 07.00 - 19.00
Diversion: Via Marden Road, A229 Station Road and Maidstone Road

Road Name: Greenway Forstal, (Greenway Lane), Harrietsham
Extent: Greenway Court Road to Holm Mill Lane
Date: 2nd May 2012 for 1 working day between 07.00 - 19.00
Diversion: Holm Mill Lane, A20 Ashford Road and Greenway Court Road

Road Name: Hubbards Hill, Lenham
Extent: A20 Ashford Road to Warren Street
Date: 3rd May 2011 for 1 working day between 07.00 - 19.00
Diversion: Via Warren Street, Waterditch Lane, Rayners Hill and A20 Ashford Road

Road Name: Woodcock Lane, Boughton Malherbe
Extent: Headcorn Road to Coldbridge Lane
Date: 6th May 2012 for 1 working day between 07.00 - 19.00
Diversion: Via Coldbridge Lane and Headcorn Road

Road Name: Stede Hill, Harrietsham
Extent: Marley Road to Ringlestone Road
Date: nd May 2012 for 1 working day between 07.00 - 19.00
Diversion: Via Ringlestone Road, Ashdown Road, West Street, Faversham Road, A20 Ashford Road, Church Road and Stede Hill

Road Name: Sandway, Boughton Malherbe
Extent: Boughton Road to Bowley Lane (where it changes to Coach Road)
Date: 4th May 2012 for 1 working day between 07.00 - 19.00
Diversion: Via Boughton Road, Church Road, Woodcock Lane, Coldbridge Lane, Egerton House Road and Coach Road

Road Name: Old Mill Road, Leeds
Extent: A20 Ashford Road to Forge Lane
Date: 2nd May 2012 for 1 working day between 07.00 - 19.00
Diversion: Via Forge Lane, Caring Lane, Otham Lane and A20 Ashford Road

Road Name: Gossy Hill Road, Frinstead
Extent: Bottom Pond Road to Frinstead church crossroads
Date: 4th May 2012 between 07.00 - 19.00
Diversion: Via Torry Hill Road, Frinstead Road, Horn Hill and Bottom Pond Road

Road Name: Battle Lane, Staplehurst
Extent: Marden Road to B2079 Maidstone Road
Date: 6th May 2012 between 07.00 - 19.00
Diversion: Via B2079 Maidstone Road and Howland Road.

Road Name: Boughton Road/Church Road, Boughton Malherbe
Extent: Sandway/Boughton Road crossroads to Woodcock Lane
Date: 4th May 2012 between 07.00 - 19.00
Diversion: Via Woodcock Lane, Headcorn Road, Lenham Heath Road and Boughton Road.

Maidstone West

Road Name: School Lane, Maidstone
Extent: Willington Street to Oxford Rd
Date: 1st May 2012 for 1 working day between 09:00 - 15:30
Diversion: Willington Street, Northumberland Rd and Oxford Rd.

For further information, please contact
Kent County Council Highways and Transportation,
on 08458 247 800 (local rate)
or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways



Road Name:	Castle Hill, Thurnham.
Extent:	Whole length.
Date:	1st May 2012 for 1 working day between 07:00 - 19:00
Diversion:	Cul de Sac
Road Name:	Thurnham Lane, Thurnham
Extent:	Between Ware Street and Pilgrims Way
Date:	1st May 2012 for 1 working day between 07:00 - 19:00
Diversion:	Pilgrims Way, Water Lane and The Street.
Road Name:	Redwall Lane, Linton
Extent:	A229 Linton Hill to Bonflower Lane
Date:	7th May 2012 for 1 working day between 07:00 - 19:00
Diversion:	A229 Linton Hill, Wheeler's Lane, Barnes Lane and Bonflower Lane.
Road Name:	B2163 Teston Lane, West Farleigh.
Extent:	Teston Bridge to B2010 Lower Rd
Date:	7th May 2012 for 1 working day between 07:00 - 19:00
Diversion:	A26 Tonbridge Rd, Terrace Rd, Rocky Hill, St Peter's St, Bishops Way, A229 Mill Street, Palace Avenue, Upper Stone Street, Sheal's Crescent, Hayle Rd, B2010 Collage Rd, Tovil Rd, Tovil Hill, Farleigh Hill B2010 Dean St, B2010 Lower Rd.

Tunbridge Wells

Road Name:	Glassenbury Road, Cranbrook
Extent:	Chalk Lane to A229 Hartley Road
Date:	11th May 2012 for 1 working day between 07:00 - 19:00
Diversion:	Via A229 Hartley Road, Angley Road, A262 Goudhurst Road, Glassenbury Road.
Road Name:	Pearsons Green Road, Paddock Wood
Extent:	Queen Street to Knowle Road
Date:	8th May 2012 for 1 working day between 07:00 - 19:00
Diversion:	Via Pearsons Green Road, Churn Lane, B2162 Maidstone Road, Yew Tree Green Road, Crook Road, Pixot Hill, Mile Oak Road.
Road Name:	A229 Rocks Hill/Camden Hill/The Common, Cranbrook
Extent:	j/w A262 Wilsley Pound roundabout to a point 150m south of Grandshore Lane
Date:	11th May 2012 for 1 working day between 0930 - 1530
Diversion:	Via A262 The Street Sissinghurst, Sissinghurst Road, High Street Biddenden, A274 North Street, Headcorn Road, Biddenden Road, Biddenden Lane, Wheeler Street, Station Road, High Street Headcorn, North Street, Mill Bank, Maidstone Road, Headcorn Road, North Street, B 2163 Plough Wents Road, Cock Street, Heath Road, A229 Linton Hill, Staplehurst Road, Maidstone Road, Station Road Staplehurst, High Street, and Cranbrook Road.
Road Name:	Penshurst Road, Bidborough
Extent:	Haydsden Lane to Penshurst High Street
Date:	14th May 2012 for 1 working day between 0930 - 1530
Diversion:	Via B2176 Penshurst Road, Bidborough Ridge, A26 London Road, St John's Road, A264 Church Road, Bishops Down, Langton Road, Ashurst Road, B2188 Fordcombe Road, Spring Hill, Saints Hill, New Road, Fordcombe Road, Penshurst High Street, B2176 Rogues Hill
Road Name:	Maidstone Road, Paddock Wood
Extent 1:	Ringden Avenue to Badsell Road
Extent 2:	Badsell Road to Chantlers Hill
Date:	8th May for 1 working day between 0930 - 1530
Diversion 1:	B2160 Maidstone Road, A228 Whetsted Road and B2017 Badsell Road
Diversion 2:	B2160 Gedges Hill, Maidstone Road, A21 Hastings Road, A228 Maidstone Road and B2017 Badsell Road
Road Name:	Husheath Hill, Colliers Green, Goudhurst
Extent:	Between Colliers Green Road to Hart Heath Farm Road.
Date:	9th May 2012 for 1 working day between 07:00 - 19:00
Diversion:	Via Horden Road and Hart Heath Farm Road.
Road Name:	North Road, Goudhurst
Extent:	Between A262 Goudhurst High Street to B2084 Chequers Road
Date:	8th May for 1 working day between 07:00 - 19:00
Diversion:	Via B2076 North Road, B2084 Chequers Road, A262 Cranbrook Rd, Church Road and High Street
Road Name:	Halden Lane, Rolvenden
Extent:	A28 Tenterden Road to Stepneyford Lane
Date:	12th May 2012 for 1 working day between 07:00 - 19:00
Diversion:	Via A28 Tenterden Road, B2086 Benenden Road and Stepneyford Lane

Road Name:	Bishopden Road, East End, Benenden
Extent:	Between Frogs Hole Lane to Tenterden Road
Date:	12th May 2012 for 1 working day between 07:00 - 19:00
Diversion:	Via Frogs Hole Lane and Tenterden Road
Road Name:	Sponden Lane, Hawkhurst
Extent:	A268 Rye Road (Field Green) to Sponden Lane (east arm)
Date:	12th May 2011 for 2 working days between 07:00 - 19:00
Diversion:	A268 Rye Road and Sponden Lane (east arm)
Road Name:	Old Whetsted Road, Paddock Wood
Extent:	Whole length around loop
Date:	7th May 2011 for 1 working day between 07:00 - 19:00
Diversion:	No diversion (Access from either end)
Road Name:	Curtisden Green Lane and Round Green Lane, Curtisden Green, Goudhurst
Extent:	Colliers Green Road to Husheath Hill
Date:	9th May 2011 for 1 working day between 07:00 - 19:00
Diversion:	Via Colliers Green Road, A262 Cranbrook Road, B2084 Chequers Road, B2079 Marden Road and via Curtisden Green Lane and Horden Road.
Road Name:	Neils Road, Lamberhurst
Extent:	B2169 Furnace Lane to Free Heath Road
Date:	14th May 2011 for 1 working day between 07:00 - 19:00
Diversion:	Via B2169 Furnace Lane and Free Heath Road
Road Name:	Wellington Road, Hawkhurst
Extent:	A229 Cranbrook Road to Slip Mill Road)
Date:	12th May 2011 for 2 working days between 07:00 - 19:00
Diversion:	Via A 229 Cranbrook Road, A268 High Street, Slip Mill Lane.
Road Name:	Heartenoak Road, Hawkhurst
Extent:	A229 Cranbrook Road to Whites Lane
Date:	13th May 2011 for 1 working day between 07:00 - 19:00
Diversion:	Via 229 Cranbrook Road and Ockley Road
Road Name:	Field Green, Hawkhurst
Extent:	Sponden Lane to Foxhole Lane
Date:	13th May 2011 for 1 working day between 07:00 - 19:00
Diversion:	Via Sponden Lane, A268 Rye Road and Foxhole Lane.

Tonbridge & Malling

Road Name:	Powder Mill Lane, Leigh.
Extent:	Powder Mill Lane to Factory entrance beyond Hunters Seal
Date:	15th May 2012 for 1 working day between 07:00 - 19:00
Diversion:	Cul de sac
Road Name:	Hamptons Road, Shipbourne.
Extent:	School Lane to Park Road,
Date:	16th May 2012 for 1 working day between 07:00 - 19:00
Diversion:	East / West Carpenters Lane, A26 High St Hadlow, The Ridgeway, A227 Shipbourne Road, A227 Stumble Hill, Upper Green Rd, Reeds Lane.
Diversion South:	Dunks Green, Long Mill lane, The Street, Church Hill, School lane.
Road Name:	Claygate Lane, Shipbourne.
Extent:	Entire Length
Date:	17th May 2012 for 1 working day between 07:00 - 19:00
Diversion:	Reeds Lane, Hamptons Road, Puttenden Lane
Road Name:	Park Road, East Peckham.
Extent:	Entire Length
Date:	17th May 2012 for 1 working day between 07:00 - 19:00
Diversion:	Roydon Hall Rd, A228 Seven Mile Lane, B2015 Maidstone Rd, Gibbs Hill Nettleshead Lane.
Road Name:	Stan Lane, West Peckham
Extent:	Spur between Swanton Road and Stan Lane.
Date:	18th May 2012 for 1 working day between 07:00 - 19:00
Diversion:	Stan Lane and Swanton Rd
Road Name:	Thong Lane, Borough Green.
Extent:	Entire Length
Date:	21st May 2012 for 1 working day between 07:00 - 19:00
Diversion:	Mill Lane, A227 Bates Hill, The Street, Fen Pond Rd, Borough Green Rd, A25 Sevenoaks Rd, Quarry Hill Rd.
Road Name:	Ford Lane, Addington & Trottisccliffe.
Extent:	Addington Lane to Wrotham Water Road.
Date:	21st May 2012 for 1 working day between 09:00 - 15:30
Diversion:	Allington Lane, Trottisccliffe Rd, A20 London Rd.

Road Name:	Fairseat Lane, Wrotham.
Extent:	Entire Length
Date:	21st May 2012 for 1 working day between 09:00 - 15:30
Diversion:	Platt House Lane, Vigo Rd and A227 Gravesend Rd.
Road Name:	Platt House Lane, Stansted.
Extent:	Entire Length
Date:	21st May 2012 for 1 working day between 09:00 - 15:30
Diversion:	South Bound; Vigo Road and A227 Gravesend Rd. North bound Fairseat Lane, A227 Gravesend Rd, Vigo Road
Road Name:	Pilgrims Way, Wrotham.
Extent:	Entire length
Date:	22nd May 2012 for 1 working day between 07:00 - 19:00
Diversion:	A20 London Road, Ford Lane, Wrotham Water Road.
Road Name:	Wrotham Water Road, Wrotham.
Extent:	Entire Length
Date:	22nd May 2012 for 1 working day between 07:00 - 19:00
Diversion:	Ford Lane, The Street and Wrotham Water Lane.
Road Name:	Roughetts Road, Ryarsh
Extent:	Church Road to The Street
Date:	22nd May 2012 for 1 working day between 09:00 - 15:30
Diversion:	Woodgate Road, Trottisccliffe Road A20 London Road and Roughetts Road.
Road Name:	Work House Lane, Ryarsh
Extent:	Entire Length
Date:	23rd May 2012 for 1 working day between 07:00 - 19:00
Diversion:	The Street and Chapel Street.
Road Name:	Park Farm Road, Ryarsh.
Extent:	Entire length.
Date:	23rd May 2012 for 1 working day between 07:00 - 19:00
Diversion:	Cul de Sac.
Road Name:	Court Road, Burham
Extent:	Entire Length
Date:	24th May 2012 for 1 working day between 07:00 - 19:00
Diversion:	Rochester Rd, Scarborough Lane and Old Church Rd.
Road Name:	Hall Road, Wouldham
Extent:	Entire Length
Date:	24th May 2012 for 1 working day between 07:00 - 19:00
Diversion:	Cul de Sac
Road Name:	School Lane, Wouldham
Extent:	Entire Length
Date:	24th May 2012 for 1 working day between 09:00 - 15:30
Diversion:	The High Street, Knowle Rd and Pilgrims Way.
Gravesham	
Road Name:	Church Road, Cobham.
Extent:	Round Street to Henhurst Road
Date:	25th May 2012 for 1 working day between 07:00 - 19:00
Diversion:	Jeskyns Road, Henhurst Road, Sole Street, Round Street
Road Name:	Dean Road, Gravesham
Extent:	Dean Lane to Oakendean Road
Date:	26th May 2012 for 1 working day between 07:00 - 19:00
Diversion:	Dean Lane, Chandlers Hill, Brimstone Hill, Oakendean Road
Road Name:	Round Street, Cobham
Extent:	Sole Street to Jeskyns Road
Date:	26th May 2012 for 1 working day between 07:00 - 19:00
Diversion:	Church Road, Henhurst Road, Jeskyns Road, Sole Street
Road Name:	Lower Rochester Road, Higham.
Extent:	Lower Rochester Road to School Lane
Date:	26th May 2012 for 1 working day between 07:00 - 19:00
Diversion:	Lower Rochester Road, A289 Wainscott By Pass, A226 Gravesend Road, Forge Lane, School Lane
Road Name:	Hermitage Road, Higham.
Extent:	School Lane to Lower Rochester Road
Date:	27th May 2012 for 1 working day between 07:00 - 19:00
Diversion:	Lower Rochester Road, Church Street, Chalk Road, School Lane

Dartford	
Road Name:	Longfield Avenue, Longfield.
Extent:	New Barn Road for its entire length
Date:	27th May 2012 for 1 working day between 07:00 - 19:00
Diversion:	n/a
Road Name:	Southfleet Road, Dartford.
Extent:	Swanscombe Street to Thames Way
Date:	28th May 2012 for 1 working day between 07:00 - 19:00
Diversion:	Thames Way, Stonebridge Road, Galley Hill Road, High Street, Stanhope Road
Road Name:	Station Road, Southfleet.
Extent:	Dale Road to Westwood Road
Date:	28th May 2012 for 1 working day between 07:00 - 19:00
Diversion:	Dale Road, Hook Green Road, Highcross Road, Betsham Road, Park Corner Road, Foxhounds Lane
Road Name:	Heath Lane Upper, Dartford.
Extent:	Oakfield Lane to Princes Road
Date:	29th May 2012 for 1 working day between 07:00 - 19:00
Diversion:	Princes Road, Shepherds Lane, Oakfield Lane
Road Name:	Church Hill, Wilmington
Extent:	Hawley Road to High Street
Date:	29th May 2012 for 1 working day between 07:00 - 19:00
Diversion:	Hawley Road, Oakfield Lane, Common Lane, High Road
Sevenoaks	
Road Name:	Coltstead, Ash-Cum-Ridley.
Extent:	Ash Road to Chapel Wood Road
Date:	30th May 2012 for 1 working day between 07:00 - 19:00
Diversion:	Ash Road and Chapel Wood Road
Road Name:	Pease Hill, Ash-Cum-Ridley.
Extent:	The Street to Hartley Bottom Road
Date:	30th May 2012 for 1 working day between 07:00 - 19:00
Diversion:	The Street, Ash Road, Redhill Road, and Hartley Bottom Road
Road Name:	Maplescombe Lane, Farningham.
Extent:	Donkey Lane to Botsom Lane
Date:	30th May 2012 for 1 working day between 07:00 - 19:00
Diversion:	Donkey Lane, A20 Gorse Hill, London Road and Botsom Lane
Road Name:	Cold Arbor Road, Chevening.
Extent:	A25 Westerham Road to Bridge Over A21
Date:	31st May 2012 for 1 working day between 09:30 - 15:30
Diversion:	A25 Westerham Road, Main Road, High Street Brasted, Westerham Road, Brasted Road, Westerham Road, B2026 Hosey Hill, Hosey Common Road, Main Road, B269 Spout Lane, Pootings Road, B2042 Green Lane, Ide Hill Road, B2042 Wheatsheaf Hill, Chevening Road
Road Name:	Cow Lane, Hever.
Extent:	Cowden Pound Road to Buckhurst Lane
Date:	31st May 2012 for 1 working day between 07:00 - 19:00
Diversion:	Buckhurst, Brockenhurst Lane and Buckhurst Lane
Road Name:	Rogues Hill, Penshurst.
Extent:	Between Penshurst Village and "Swaylands" Development
Date:	31st May 2012 for 1 working day between 09:30 - 15:30
Diversion:	B2176 Penshurst Road, Bidborough Ridge, A26 London Road, St John's Road, A264 Church Road, Bishops Down, Langton Road, Ashurst Road, B2188 Fordcombe Road, Spring Hill, Saints Hill, New Road, Fordcombe Road, Penshurst High Street.
Road Name:	Roodlands Lane, Hever
Extent:	Green Lane to Clinton Lane.
Date:	1st June 2012 for 1 working day between 07:00 - 19:00
Diversion:	Green Lane, Ide Hill Road and Bough Beech Road

For further information, please contact
Kent County Council Highways and Transportation,
on 08458 247 800 (local rate)
or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways



HIGHWAYS - District of Sevenoaks

ASHGROVE ROAD SEVENOAKS - (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council intends to make an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic on Ashgrove Road, Sevenoaks at Junction of Hopgarden Lane to Oak Lane.

The Order will become effective on 29 April 2012 and will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to commence on 30/04/2012 and should last approx 5 days. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: Oak Lane, Weald Road, Ashgrove Road.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate the installation of a power network cable.

BANK LANE, SEVENOAKS (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council has made an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic on Bank Lane outside property known as Hopefield.

The Order will become effective on 15th April 2012 and will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to commence 16th April 2012 and will last for approx 5 days. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: London Road, Mill Lane.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate a new gas supply.

SKEET HILL LANE, SEVENOAKS (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council has made an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic on Skeet Hill Lane from the junction Daltons Road to Junction Gorse Road.

The Order will become effective on 22nd April 2012 and will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to commence 25th April 2012 and will last for approx 1 day. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: Well Hill, Hawstead Lane, Bucks Cross Road, Chelsfield Lane, Skeet Hill Lane.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate BT cabling works.

HIGHWAYS - District of Shepway

BANK STREET, HYTHE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of gas mains replacement works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Bank Street, Hythe, on or after 16 April 2012 for up to 3 weeks.

The road will be closed between the junctions with Chapel Street and the High Street.

The alternative route is via A259 Prospect Road and High Street which re-opens on 16th April 2012.

The Order prohibiting driving along High Street, Hythe between 11.00 am and 3.00 pm will be suspended whilst Bank Street is closed.

ST JOHN'S ROAD, NEW ROMNEY (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of works to install a new water meter and pipework, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on St John's Road, New Romney, on or after 16 April 2012 for up to 5 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed in the vicinity of the junction with A259 Lydd Road.

The alternative route is via A259 Lydd Road and West Street.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (VARIOUS ROADS, NEW ROMNEY) (WAITING RESTRICTIONS AND STREET PARKING PLACES) ORDER 2012

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDER 1984

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL, acting as the local traffic authority and in exercise of their powers under sections 1(1), 2(4) to (3), 3 (2), 4 (1) and (2), 32 (1), 45, 46, 49 and 53 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Paragraph 20 of Part III of Schedule 9 to the said Act of 1984, hereby makes the following Order:-

1. The Order "THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (Various Roads, New Romney) (Waiting Restriction and Street Parking Places) Order 2012" will introduce a 'no waiting at any time' (double yellow lines) on the following lengths of road in New Romney.

LITTLESTONE ROAD - NEW ROMNEY

- (i) Littlestone Road - From a point 20 metres east of its junction with Station Approach to a point 10 metres south of its junction with Station Approach.

STATION APPROACH - NEW ROMNEY

- (ii) Station Approach - On the western side to a point 10 metres south of its junction with Littlestone Road.

A copy of the Order, which comes into operation 20th April 2012, together with an explanatory statement and a map indicating the location and the effect and a copy of any other Orders which will be amended by the Order may be examined at the Council Offices of Shepway District Council Offices, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone and at Kent County Council, Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone during normal opening hours.

Any person wishing to question the validity of the Order or any of the provisions contained therein on the grounds that it is not within the powers of the relevant enabling Act or that any requirement of any such enabling Act or of any regulations made thereunder have not been complied with may within 6 weeks from the date on which the Order was made make application to the High Court for this purpose

HIGHWAYS - District of Thanet

STAFFORDSHIRE STREET, RAMSGATE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway repair works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Staffordshire Street, Ramsgate, on or after 16 April 2012 for up to 2 days, between 8.00 am and 4.00 pm. The road will be closed for its entire length.

The alternative routes are

Northbound via Turner Street, Broad Street and Hardres Street.

Southbound via Hardres Street, Belmont Street, King Street, Brunswick Street and Turner Street.

There will be no through access along Union Street

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Tonbridge & Malling

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (ASHES LANE, HADLOW) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Ashes Lane on or after Monday 30th April 2012 for a period of up to 1 week or until such works are complete.

The alternative route is via Higham Lane, Cuckoo Lane, A26 Tonbridge Road.

UK Power Networks apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works that are necessary for cabling. Should you require any further information about these works, the contact is Kevin McDermott on 0797 3803611.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (CHATHAM ROAD AND OLD CHATHAM ROAD AYLESFORD) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC AND SUSPENSION OF ONE-WAY) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out the Kent County Council has made an order an Order prohibiting:-

- 1) Southbound traffic on Chatham Road, Aylesford between the northern junction of Old Chatham Road to the southern junction of Old Chatham Road.
- 2) Northbound traffic on Old Chatham Road, Aylesford between the southern junction of Chatham Road to the entrance to the Lower Bell Industrial Estate.

And also suspending the existing northbound traffic only one-way order on Old Chatham Road, Aylesford between the entrance to the Lower Bell Industrial Estate to the northern junction of Chatham Road.

This order will be effective on or after Monday 16th April 2012 when required for a period of up to 3 weeks or until such works are complete.

The alternative routes for the above are for 1) via Old Chatham Road southbound and 2) via Chatham Road northbound then Old Chatham Road southbound.

Should you require any further information about these works, their contact is Jack Hanger of South East water on 01634 873095

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL HIGH STREET, WEST MALLING (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst an event is taking place on or near the highway the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by vehicular traffic on High Street, West Malling, between the entrance to the short stay car park (adj. 107 High Street) and the junction with Swan Street.

The Order will become effective on 22nd April 2012 for the dates shown in schedule 1 below, between the hours of 6.00am to 3.00pm or until the time stated next to that date. These closures will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place for the durations of the events. Access will be maintained at all times as much as is possible.

The alternative route for High Street, West Malling will be via A228 Ashton Way, A20 London Road and Town Hill.

The purpose of the Order is to enable the Farmers Market, the Christmas lights switch on and the Queens Diamond Jubilee celebrations to take place.

For further information please contact Kent County Council Highways & Transportation on 08458 247 800.

Schedule 1

Sunday 22nd April 2012 (until 5.00pm)	Sunday 28rd October 2012
Sunday 29th April 2012 (until 5.00pm)	Sunday 25th November 2012 (until 8.00pm)
Sunday 27th May 2012	Sunday 16th December 2012
Sunday 4th June 2012 (until 6.00pm)	Sunday 23rd December 2012
Sunday 24th June 2012	Sunday 27th January 2013
Sunday 22nd July 2012	Sunday 24th February 2013
Sunday 26th August 2012	Sunday 24th March 2013
Sunday 23rd September 2012	

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Tunbridge Wells

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (FOOTPATH, COLEBROOK ROAD, SOUTHBOROUGH) (PROHIBITION OF PEDESTRIAN TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a highway the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by pedestrian traffic on the footpath that runs between 81 and 83 Colebrook Road on or after Monday 30th April 2012 for a period of 4 weeks or until such works are completed.

The alternative route is via Baldwins Lane, North Farm Road, Highfield Road, High Brooms Road, Colebrook Road.

Mr Adams apologises for any inconvenience caused by these works, which are necessary to knock down and rebuild a retaining wall, and should you require any further information about these works, the contact is Mr Adams on 07900 181327.

For further information or comment please call KCC Highways on 08458 247 800.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (THE STREET, BENENDEN) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on The Street at the crossroads with the junctions of New Pond Road and Iden Green Road between 19.00hrs and 05.00hrs on or after Tuesday 1st May 2012 for a period of up to 1 night or until such works are complete.

The alternative route is via A28 High Street/Hastings Road, A268 Sandhurst Road/Rye Road/Queens Road/Megrim's Hill/Rye Road, A229 Cranbrook Road/Hawkhurst Road, B2086 Swatenden Lane/Benenden Road/Cranbrook Road/Mounts Hill.

KCC Highways apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works that are necessary for safety critical carriageway repairs. Should you require any further information about these works, the contact is Sue Laporte on 08458 247 800.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (VARIOUS ROADS, SPELDHURST, TUNBRIDGE WELLS) (SPEED LIMITS) ORDER 2012

Notice is hereby given that the KENT COUNTY COUNCIL hereby makes the above named Order under section 82 and 84 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, (hereinafter called "the Act") and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the Chief Officer of Police in accordance with paragraph 20 of Part III of Schedule 9 to the said Act of 1984.

The effect of the Order will introduce various speed limits on the following road or lengths of road;

Schedule 1 (Roads subject to a speed limit of 30 mph)

SPELDHURST

C46 Barden Road From a point 200 metres north of its junction with Furzfield Avenue south eastwards to its junction with Speldhurst Hill.

C45 Speldhurst Hill For its entire length.
C40 Speldhurst Road From its junction with Speldhurst Hill southwards to a point 85 metres south of Ferbies.

C40 Penshurst Road From its junction with Speldhurst Road north westwards to a point 240 metres northwest of its junction with Southfields.

Lower Green Road From its junction with Speldhurst Hill south eastwards for 175 metres.

LANGTON

C40 Speldhurst Road From its junction with Langton Road northwards to a point 175 metres north of Courtenwell.

A264 Langton Road From a point 340 metres west of its junction with Speldhurst Road eastwards to a point 170 metres east of its junction with Farnham Lane.

GROOMBRIDGE

B2110 Groombridge Hill From a point 275 metres north of its junction with Bird in Hand Street southwards to the boundary of Speldhurst Parish.

Bird in Hand Street From its junction with Groombridge Hill north westwards for 180 metres.

ASHURST

A264 Ashurst Road From the boundary of Speldhurst Parish eastwards for 800 metres.

For further information, please contact
Kent County Council Highways and Transportation,
on 08458 247 800 (local rate)
or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways



HIGHWAYS

Schedule 2

(Roads subject to a speed limit of 40 mph)

SPELDHURST

C46 Barden Road	From a point 200 metres north of its junction with Furzfield Avenue northwards for 1050 metres.
C45 Etherington Hill	From a point 265 metres east of its junction with Stockland Green Road eastwards to the boundary of Speldhurst Parish.
Stockland Green Road	From its junction with Etherington Hill northwards and eastwards to the boundary of Speldhurst Parish (junction with Bentham Hill).
C40 Speldhurst Road	From a point 85 metres south of its junction with Ferbies southwards to a point 100 metres south of its junction with Burnt House Lane.

LANGTON

A264 Langton Road	From a point 170 metres east of Farnham Lane eastwards to the boundary of Speldhurst Parish.
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Schedule 3

(Roads subject to a speed limit of 50 mph)

LANGTON & ASHURST

A264 Langton Road	From a point 340 metres west of its junction with Speldhurst Road westwards to a point 800 metres eastwards from the boundary of Speldhurst Parish.
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GROOMBRIDGE

B2110 Groombridge Hill From a point 275 metres north of its junction with Bird in Hand Street north eastwards to its junction with A264 Ashurst Road.

A copy of the Order, which comes into operation 20th April 2012, together with a statement of the Council's reasons for making the Order, a map indicating the location and the effect and a copy of any other Orders which will be amended by the proposed Order may be examined at the Council Offices of Tunbridge Wells Borough Council, Town Road, Royal Tunbridge Wells and at Kent County Council, Sessions House, County Road, Maidstone during normal opening hours.

Any person wishing to question the validity of the Order or any of the provisions contained therein on the grounds that it is not within the powers of the relevant enabling Act or that any requirement of any such enabling Act or of any regulations made thereunder have not been complied with may within 6 weeks from the date on which the Order was made make application to the High Court for this purpose.

John Burr
Director Kent Highways
Invicta House
County Hall,
Maidstone
Kent ME14 1XQ

Dated 15th April 2012

For further information, please contact
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You can get inside the head of Paul Merton as he sets out on the road

SEE PAGE 51

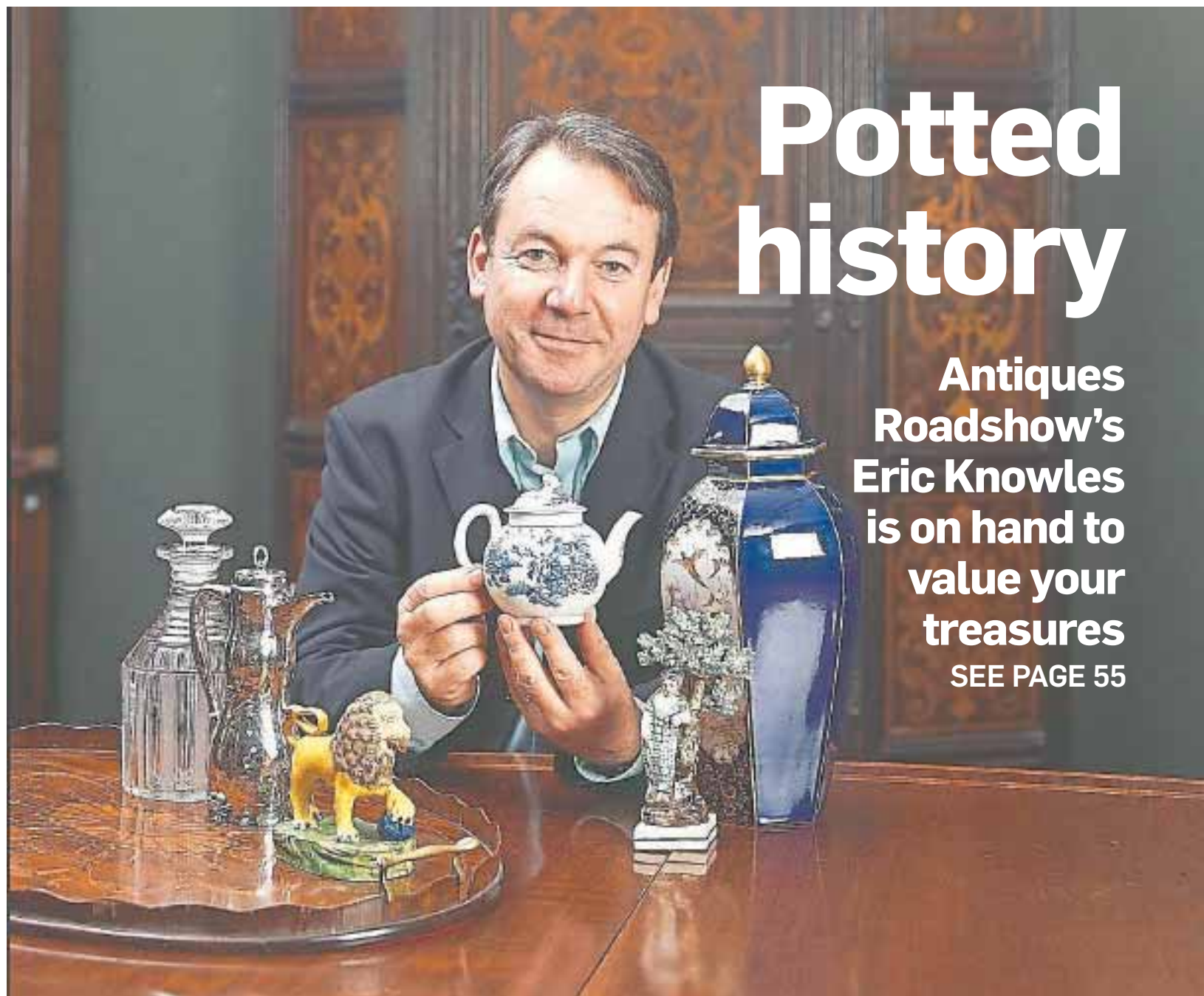


A GOOD SPORT

Journalist Mihir Bose is at the top of his game

SEE PAGE 59

Kent Weekend



Potted history

Antiques Roadshow's Eric Knowles is on hand to value your treasures

SEE PAGE 55

PLUS: That wonderful pub food you've been looking for... we've found it - **food and drink p53** Developer invites you to exchange your home for something more - **property p60** Citroën looks to the skies - **driving p69**



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THE INTERVIEW

Paul Merton

Have I got stand-up for you

Ever wondered what goes on in Paul Merton's head? Now you can find out



NOT quite ready to be placed in Room 101 just yet, panel-show regular and comedic TV star Paul Merton is bringing his new stand-up show to Kent this month.

Out Of My Head is Merton's first newly-written show since 1998, but getting back on the horse can't have been too daunting for the Have I Got News For You funnyman as he has already bagged a whopping 50 dates for this tour.

The new show will give fans an unprecedented insight into the wondrous workings of Merton's mind. The stand-up will be interspersed with sketches, music, magic, variety and perhaps even some dancing girls.

Merton has been at the top of his game for more than two decades, serving a massive 22 years behind the Have I Got News For You desk with Ian Hislop. However, for the coming tour Merton will be joining up with pals Lee Simpson, Richard Vranich and Suki Webster, who all take part in the show.

He said: "We're having such a great time. It's about taking the plunge and devising a show that is fully scripted. It has stand-up, sketches, interaction with the audience and a few things that will startle people. Working on a tour that starts off as a mere jotting on the back of a fag packet and develops into a spectacular show is a sheer joy."

Having been a key member of the country's most famous improvisational troupe, The Comedy Store Players, since its formation in 1985, Merton is an expert in doing things off the cuff.

He said: "I get such a buzz from performing live. It's the best rush in the world – better than anything else you can think of. If you're trying to convince a TV producer that something is funny, it can take ages. But if you have a good idea with The Comedy Store Players, you just say it there and then."

"You don't have to take it to a commissioning editor, or get a budget and have the comedy kicked out of it by a committee. And you immediately know whether it's funny because you'll hear the sound of laughter – or not."

Merton has also enjoyed a successful career as a travel-documentary presenter, producing memorable pieces such as Paul Merton In China, Paul Merton In India, Paul Merton In Europe and Paul Merton's Adventures. But, as he explained, there is still nothing to compare to the stand-up game.

He said: "It's so inspiring. You just ride the

wave of laughter and then you might come up with something. Ralph Richardson used to talk about pushing a huge ball up a hill to the point where it gains momentum and starts rolling down the other side. That's what live comedy is like. The only snag is, you have to do it while trying to look completely relaxed."

The comedian stays 'in the zone' by

performing every week with his impro troupe, meaning he is ready for anything at all times.

He said: "That [the troupe] feeds into everything else I do. When Have I Got News For You comes around, I don't think 'Oh no, I'm a bit rusty'. Doing The Comedy Store Players every Sunday means you're match-fit all the time. It's a performance muscle. If it's not

getting flexed, it gets flabby. That's why people who haven't been onstage for a while struggle when they go back to the theatre – because it's a completely different discipline."

In the Out Of My Head show, Merton will no longer have to be put on the spot, something that allows him to relax a little... but not too much.

"With this show we get to repeat moments we really enjoy. In impro, you can't go back and do it again, but here you get the chance to create a show over a sustained period of rehearsal – and that's wonderful."

It has been almost 15 years since Merton took to the stage on his own for a stand-up show and, as he explained, the experience wasn't one he wanted to repeat too often.

He said: "Having spent so many years working with other people, when I did a stand-up tour on my own in 1998 I really didn't enjoy sitting on my own in the dressing room during the interval. All the same, I'm sure I'll be sitting there on this tour thinking 'Why did I bring those guys along?'."

Out of My Head will cover a variety of themes, including the class system and the spell Merton spent in hospital after falling ill from anti-malaria tablets.

But the overriding theme of the show is imagination: "I went to a Catholic school. When I was 10, I wrote an essay which the nun who was teaching me really didn't like because it was imaginative. She didn't like imagination."

"It was one of those things that you know is desperately unfair but can't do anything about because you are only 10."

"So I began thinking 'A nun who is wrong about something so fundamental might well be wrong about other stuff, too'. Imagination has built my entire career. This show is a celebration of imagination."

• **Paul Merton brings Out Of My Head to The Marlowe Theatre, Canterbury, on Tuesday, April 24. Phone 01227 787787 or visit marlowetheatre.com for tickets.**

• **The Assembly Hall Theatre, Tunbridge Wells, hosts the show on Monday, April 30. For tickets, phone 01892 530613 or visit assemblyhalltheatre.co.uk.**



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FOOD & DRINK **Flavours of Kent**

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The Red Lion still roars in a display of culinary pride

It is one of life's more dispiriting experiences... the well-meaning recommendation of the idyllic Kentish country pub that in fact pitches you up at some charmless 1970s box surrounded by new housing estates on the edge of town. Dispiriting and indeed increasingly frequent to the point where you wonder whether such places actually exist. The good news, however, is that they do.

Standing head and shoulders above a sea of mediocrity with, it should be stressed, a select few, is The Red Lion in Stodmarsh. But then it always has, at least for as long as I can remember.

Run for so long and so memorably by the wonderfully eccentric Robert Whigham, who enjoyed his own sliver of television fame on a show devoted to Red Lions across the country, the pub is now in the hands of his daughter Charlotte and her partner Justin Legge.

The chef is Justin's brother Darren, whose work has in recent years graced both The Old Coach And Horses in Harbledown and Riverside Restaurant Bar And Grill in Canterbury.

Justin and Darren's father was Dave Lee, the much-loved comedian who died earlier this year. All in all, you can't help but feel that here, in its way, lies a place at the heart of east Kent.

RESTAURANT REVIEW



Nevertheless, it is not a place known to the greater masses, most of whom rarely – and perhaps thankfully – stray far from the beaten track... or A road, for that matter. However, those who have chanced upon it join the locals in what can sometimes appear a celebration of simply being somewhere good.

The feel is wholly rustic and, even if the realities of the 21st century beat within us all, here's somewhere whose warm, intimate and welcoming environment takes us back to a place that perhaps many of us feel has been lost in the furore around us.

This is a pub that serves food... good food. Refreshingly, appearances here are not deceptive and I felt completely relaxed in selecting it for a meal with two friends.

Two of us started with duck hash cake with fried egg and brown sauce, which was a sheer delight, while the third of our number enjoyed her crab toasties so much she wondered whether she could have more all over again for her main.

Happily, however, there were more than enough options for her to expand her culinary experience for the evening and she selected smoked-haddock risotto with mussels, which she declared "absolutely delicious".

In what was becoming something of a theme, the third man and I again went down the same path, both choosing belly of pork ("with crackling!") and crab-apple jelly. Flawless.

Pick of the desserts was the bread-and-butter pudding with custard, while the Doom Bar ale matched the excellent food. An overall price of £91 for three could not be faulted, either.

Lovely pub, lovely village, lovely food, lovely beer. All really rather... well, lovely.

Dave Mairs

■ The Red Lion, Stodmarsh Road, Stodmarsh, near Canterbury CT3 4BA. Telephone 01227 721339

Head chef welcomed into his new Abode

THE Old Brewery Tavern in Canterbury has appointed a new head chef.

Anthony Gardiner will lead the team at the restaurant-bar, which is owned by the nearby Abode Hotel, associated with celebrity chef Michael Caines.

Kent-born Gardiner studied catering at Thanet College before working at The Fayreness Hotel, Kingsgate, and The Royal, Ramsgate. He also took the position of head chef at Eddie Gilbert's seafood restaurant in Ramsgate.

He said: "I was very eager to work with some fantastic chefs in the industry, especially under Michael Caines. I understand the importance of locally-sourced food for the company. The new menu has some amazing dishes."

Universities wanted for culinary revolution

CATERING boffins are looking for a university to create the first food and drink engineering degree.

Universities across the country are invited to compete to become the UK's centre of excellence for food and drink and help promote the discipline as a distinct profession.

A Food And Drink Federation chief said: "A similar centre of excellence has been successfully created for the UK's dairy sector... however, a uni-based centre for food engineering won't be serving a single sector but setting standards for the entire industry."

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HOMES & GARDENS

Some planning can keep down the clutter

SPRING-CLEANING is the ideal chance to make the most of your living space by getting rid of clutter that has piled up over the winter.

And it's worth a bit of pre-planning. So before starting, how about looking at each of the problem areas in a room and figure out why the mess is there.

Why are there shoes piled up next to your doorway? Do you like people to

take off their shoes when they come in? Is it because no one in your family wants to take their shoes up to their room, or there is not enough room in the cupboard for the shoes to fit?

Why are the magazines overflowing? You may have issues of Shoot! magazine from the 70s in there or a magazine you bought only for the cake recipe on the cover.

There's no point in keeping old newspapers, either. That's what

recycling bins are for.

And books and CDs or DVDs – keep them together in a place where they can be found, not littering up a room randomly.

Maybe junk mail is piling up on your table. If you have a lot of different people in your home who receive mail, try giving each person in the house their own mail rack in their room.

What about switching your family

to automated bill-paying? Many utility companies today allow your utility bills to be deducted from your bank account automatically. You may still receive mail concerning receipt of payment, but at least these can be filed easily without worry that you'll forget to pay.

Do you need extra coat-hooks? Would a bowl on the entry table specifically for keys eliminate the chances of having to dash around

the house for 15 minutes in search of them every morning?

Try to come up with brainstorming ideas for each problem.

It's easy to find solutions to the problems that annoy you most.

Call your friends and ask them what they do.

Enlist your family's help to find out what would enable them to organise more effectively – that way everyone has a voice.



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KENT ATTRACTIONS

Free Forces family fun Dig and dump

Diggerland, Strood
Saturday, April 21
0871 2277007
www.diggerland.com

DIGGERLAND is holding a free day out for Armed Forces personnel and their families when, on Saturday, April 21, the Strood theme park opens its gates to those who have served their country. The event was such a success in 2011 that this year there will be £35,000 worth of free entry tickets given to members of the Forces. Diggerland is the only place where children and adults alike can ride and drive JCB diggers and dumpers. Diggerland will be open from 10am-5pm and Armed Forces Day tickets can be ordered via the website.



Current military photo identification is required when arriving on the day, together with pre-booked tickets, limited to four per family. Diggerland will also be open

to everyone else as normal, with tickets priced at £17 per person; children under 90 centimetres have free entry and tickets for anyone aged 65 and over cost £8.50.



St George's Day party English celebration

Riverside Country Park, Gillingham
Saturday, April 21
01634 843666; www.whatsonmedway.co.uk

BUILD sandcastles, dance to big-band sounds and even rub shoulders with Shakespeare at Medway's third annual English Festival. Held on the closest Saturday to St George's Day, the free family day out celebrates all things English and attracts thousands of visitors. Among the attractions will be a specially-created beach complete with deckchairs and donkey rides; Shakespeare's birthday party; Suffolk Punch horses; have-a-go archery; and St George himself, along with his fiery but friendly dragon.

Fashion accessories brought into focus Summer trending

McArthurGlen designer outlet, Ashford
Saturday, April 21
01233 895903
deborah.eastlake@mcarthurglen.com

THE McArthurGlen style consultant, Deborah Eastlake, will be hosting an Accessories Masterclass to show off this summer's hottest designs and trends. Fashion buffs are encouraged to head down to the outlet centre on Saturday, April 21, to find out which items are hot off the 2012 catwalks. "After the whirlwind of Fashion Week, one of the recurring trends that prevailed was to accessorise, accessorise, accessorise!" said Deborah. "As a key trend this summer, it is important to get it right. Over-accessorising can make outfits too gaudy, while under-accessorising can make it fade into the background." The masterclass will take place at 10am at the Style Suite in the southern end of the centre. To book your place, contact Deborah Eastlake on deborah.eastlake@mcarthurglen.com.

The old ones are the best Eric Knowles

Assembly Hall Theatre, Tunbridge Wells
Sunday, June 3, at 2pm
01892 530613

ANTIQUES Roadshow star Eric Knowles is one of those rare individuals who is able to share his extensive knowledge with all who listen. With more than 20 years'

working on the BBC show under his belt, Knowles has become the friendly face of what for many years was a business shrouded in mystery. In his new show, Antique Antics, Knowles talks about a business in which he has been immersed for more than 30 years. The first part of the evening is given over to his favourite tales and this is followed by a detailed look at a selection of the audience's treasures, which the star will pick out at the initial meet-and-greet session before the show.



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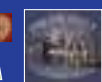
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STAGE & ARTS

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It's the future of young jazz Sound of youth

Dock Road, Chatham

Friday, April 20, at 7.30pm
01634 365352
Tickets £10

THE Kent Youth Jazz Orchestra is heading to Chatham alongside guest instrumentalist Pete Long on alto saxophone. The group has made a big name for itself playing an exciting brand of music at concert halls, jazz clubs and open-air festivals all over Kent and beyond. Under musical director Graham Mann, the orchestra guarantees arrangements of jazz standards, fusion and jazz rock that will grab you instantly and have you on your feet demanding more. At this RAF Association Club gig, the team will be joined by alto sax giant Long, who has led his own small groups and big bands, none bigger indeed than Ronnie Scott's Big Band, who he leads regularly at the famous West End jazz



Boogie Nights Add Aswad to Alexander

The Orchard, Dartford

Saturday, April 28, at 7.30pm
01322 220000
www.orchardtheatre.co.uk

DON'T forget to shine, shine like a star because legendary pop-reggae group Aswad are heading to The Orchard Theatre in Dartford. After 15 albums and two

decades on the music scene, Aswad remain one of Britain's best-loved reggae bands. They are renowned among fans for their rich melodies and especially their major hits On And On, Don't Turn Around and Shine.

The group will be on the same bill as soul legend Alexander O'Neal, having had six albums chart both in the UK and the US and spending more than 162 weeks in the Guinness book of albums. It's all part of the Boogie Nights entertainment show, for which tickets are priced at £27.50.



Let's talk about sexes Lee Hurst is on tour

The Gulbenkian, Canterbury

Thursday, April 26
01227 769075
www.thegulbenkian.co.uk

CHEEKY, chatty and crowd-pleasing comedian Lee Hurst is hitting the road with his first tour in 10 years.

Man V Woman is based on a show that Hurst performs in his Bethnal Green comedy club. Audience members get the chance to write down the questions that they've always wanted to ask about each other. In the second half, Hurst will work through these questions, giving everyone the opportunity to finally find out what makes the opposite sex tick.

Hurst is best known as one of the stars of BBC One's comedy sports quiz They Think It's All Over, his participation helping it attract more

Taiko drums See what they bang on about

The Orchard, Dartford

Wednesday, May 23
01322 220 000
www.orchardtheatre.co.uk

MUGENKYO Taiko Drummers will head to Dartford next month for a concert of powerful taiko rhythms, huge drums, striking choreography

and atmospheric percussion presented in a dramatic and theatrical stage show. Last year the team thrilled the 40,000-strong audience at London's Proms In The Park as well as producing a collaboration with the Scottish National Jazz Orchestra at the London Jazz Festival. This spring's tour sees the return of New York shinobue player Nobuko Miyazaki. In 2012 the two founders of the group, Neil Mackie and Miyuki Williams, celebrate 20 years since first travelling to Japan



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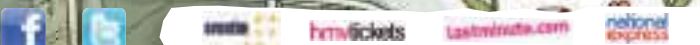
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EXHIBITIONS & EVENTS

To be included on this page, please email
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Gurkha music festival Welfare trust benefits

The Nye Hall, The Duke of York's RMS, Dover
Thursday to Saturday, April 19-21, at 7.30pm
07760 844833
Tickets £11-£13

THE Band of the Brigade of Gurkhas is staging its 13th annual Festival of Music this month in aid of The Gurkha Welfare Trust. First staged in Dover in May 2000, the festival's popularity has led to a call for three evenings a year to raise funds for retired Gurkhas in Nepal and also helps build medical centres throughout the south Asian country. The band, based at Shorncliffe Barracks in Folkestone, will be joined by The Pipes of The 1st Battalion of The Royal Gurkha Rifles, due to return to Afghanistan shortly. Guests include violinist John Perkins, writer of The Ashokin Farewell, while guest vocalist for the year is Teresa De Robertis.

Top journalist talking sport Mihir Bose

Chiddingstone Castle
Thursday, April 26
01892 872746
chiddingstonecastle.org.uk

CHIDDINGSTONE Castle will host a literary evening when award-winning journalist and author Mihir Bose speaks in the Castle's Rose Room. Bose is a well-known face on

the BBC and writes a weekly Big Sports Interview for the London Evening Standard as well as The Financial Times and The Sunday Times. Bose will be talking about his latest book, The Spirit Of The Game: How Sport Made The Modern World, at the castle. In 2007 he became sports editor at the BBC, where he analysed sports stories. His scoops included revealing the cost of the Olympics and Premier League plans for a 39th game. Tickets are priced at £10 and include a glass of wine.



Flower power Early blues in warm spring

**Hole Park Gardens,
Tenterden**
01580 241344
www.holepark.co.uk

HOLE Park Gardens have opened early this year due to the warm early spring. Ideal growing conditions have encouraged the magnolias, rhododendrons and, most significantly, bluebells to come into flower up to three weeks earlier than usual. Hole Park is particularly renowned for its beautiful bluebell wood that adjoins the 15-acre garden and a noticeable number of bluebells are already in flower. Visitors will also be able to enjoy delicious home-made cakes, cream teas and light lunches, served in the picturesque coach house. An early-bird season ticket is available at a discounted price, from which will be deducted the £6 regular entry fee if you decide to buy it. The gardens are open daily from 11am-6pm.



Afrique music duo taking off TwoManTing

Man of Kent, Rochester
Wednesday, April 18, at 9pm
Free entry
www.twomanting.co.uk

BOUNCY Afro-roots duo TwoManTing return to Rochester when they play at The Man of Kent pub in John Street. The band were formed when

Sierra Leonean master-drummer Jah-man Aggrey and virtuoso guitarist Jon Lewis were playing together as part of UK dance band Le Cod Afrique in 2004. Last year saw the release of their new album, Legacy, which has been featured on BBC Radio 3 and 6 Music, and of which Roots Magazine said "full of such bright tuneful moments, it takes off in an intimate live setting". The duo tour the UK widely and have more than 100 shows under their belt. This will be an up-close-and-personal gig.



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Developer is building for the future

A PROPERTY firm has redeveloped a vacant site in the centre of Sevenoaks and begun the sale of residential apartments and commercial units, following a loan from Lloyds TSB Commercial.

Purelake New Homes, a property-development company that focuses on both residential and commercial properties across west Kent, is completing work on a new building in London Road, next to Sevenoaks train station.

While the entire project is due for completion by early summer, the first half of the 24 mainly two-bedroom apartments have come on the market following the rapid sale of all four of the commercial units at street level below, with 70 per cent of the residential units now either reserved or exchanged.

The business has a turnover of about £20 million and employs 38 staff, in addition to a number of regular locally-

based subcontractors, and also plans further expansion in the year upon completion of the work at the Sevenoaks site.

Gerry Dowd, financial director, said: "The new development is already proving to be a success, with all the retail units taken early on.

"We're looking for new expansion opportunities for later in the year to ensure that we build upon our recent growth for the future."

Home Exchange could be answer to your prayers

DEVELOPER Bovis Homes says the company is in the market to help young families who feel they are trapped in their current home and are unable to move, via a Home Exchange scheme.

One couple who have recently managed a move are Carley and Justin Hodge, who said they didn't see a way out of their small starter home which they were quickly outgrowing.

With three children under the age of six, they were beginning to feel boxed in. The combination of a slow housing market and little interest in their home – which had been on the market for a year – meant options appeared limited.

But the couple found Abbey Place, a new development by Bovis Homes off Thistle Hill on the Isle of Sheppey, and have just moved into a five-bedroom detached home.

Carley said: "We had no intention of moving to Minster, as our children were in school in Iwade, but we thought we'd have a look as we knew Bovis were doing part-exchange.

"As soon as we walked through the front door, though, we just fell in love with it.

"We have a large kitchen, living room and separate dining room.

"Our bedroom is big, the children each have their own room – with my daughter even having her own en-suite – and we have a nice landing, a good-size garden and a double garage.

"In our house in Iwade we had two of the children in one room and one in a tiny box room. We desperately needed more space."

Chris Roads, sales operations director at Bovis



HAPPY DAYS: Hodge family found dream home

Homes, said: "We are delighted to have been able to help Justin and Carley find their dream home.

"It is becoming increasingly difficult for young families to move up the property ladder, but our Home Exchange scheme has been designed to help."

Prices at Abbey Place start at £107,950, with a selection of two-bedroom apartments and coach houses, three-bedroom terraced houses and town houses and four-bedroom detached houses available.

■ **For further information on the remaining homes at Abbey Place and on the Bovis Homes Home Exchange scheme, phone 0845 470 9164 or visit www.bovishomes.co.uk.**

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Scheme aims to beat the deposit gap

AN INNOVATIVE move to help the property market to move more quickly and so boost the overall economic prospects of the UK by aiding those looking to move on to the housing ladder has been launched.

NewBuy is the result of a collaboration between the private sector and central government, with both recognising that many people are unable to purchase a home or move house because of the large deposits required in today's difficult mortgage market.

The NewBuy scheme is designed to help overcome the deposit gap for new-home-buyers.

It is aimed at first-time buyers and those who already own a home who only have funds for a 5-10 per cent deposit on the home they wish to buy in England.

The lenders participating in the scheme will provide a 90-95 per cent loan-to-value mortgage for buyers meeting their qualifying criteria.

The scheme will be operated by the home-building industry and mortgage lenders – the banks and building societies – working in partnership with the Government.

The scheme is designed to protect the lenders against losses in the unfortunate event of a repossession, which is why they are prepared to make 90-95 per cent mortgages available.

But those behind the project say that is important to note this does not change a borrower's responsibility to repay the mortgage in any way.

NewBuy is available in Kent on all the properties offered by home-builders participating in the



scheme up to and including a sale price of £500,000.

Only new homes built by house-builders signed up to the scheme will qualify, but most major and many smaller builders are in the process of registering.

Under the scheme, individual home-builders will partner up with one or more mortgage lenders, which will offer 90-95 per cent loans on their properties.

New-home-buyers wishing to take advantage of the scheme will need to qualify for a mortgage with a mortgage lender in the usual way and be subject to the lender's normal assessment criteria.

However, whereas in recent years lenders have generally required larger deposits, the scheme will allow loans to be secured at 90-95 per cent of the property's value, meaning the purchaser only needs to find a 5-10 per cent deposit.

NewBuy advisers suggest that those looking to take part in the scheme check the websites of home-builders building in your area, or make a trip down to a building-development site and ask the sales staff if their homes are covered by the NewBuy scheme.

A spokesman said: "Once you have found a new home to meet your needs from a participating home-builder, you can either speak to an in-

dependent financial adviser, who will assess your mortgage requirements and advise you on the best mortgage product for you, or speak directly to a lender participating in the scheme.

"If a NewBuy mortgage is suitable, the next step will be to apply for a mortgage with the appropriate lender. Once you have your mortgage offer and you have reserved your new home, you are on the way to becoming a proud new-home-owner."

The scheme has a few special requirements that potential buyers need to be aware of:

- It is available to UK citizens and those with a right to remain indefinitely in the country.
- It covers full home ownership only, so it is not available for shared equity or shared ownership.
- It is available for the purchase of a person's primary home only, so not for second homes or investment or buy-to-let purchases.
- It only applies to capital repayment mortgages, not interest-only mortgages.
- You must not be receiving help with your deposit from a local authority or other public body.

Those who are interested in finding out more about the new-home sites in a local area offering NewBuy should refer to local home-builders. They can Google-search to find participating home-builders, or refer to one of the property-search websites such as New-homes.co.uk or Rightmove.co.uk.

More on what consumers need to know when considering a NewBuy mortgage can be found at www.cml.org.uk/cml/consumers/newbuy.

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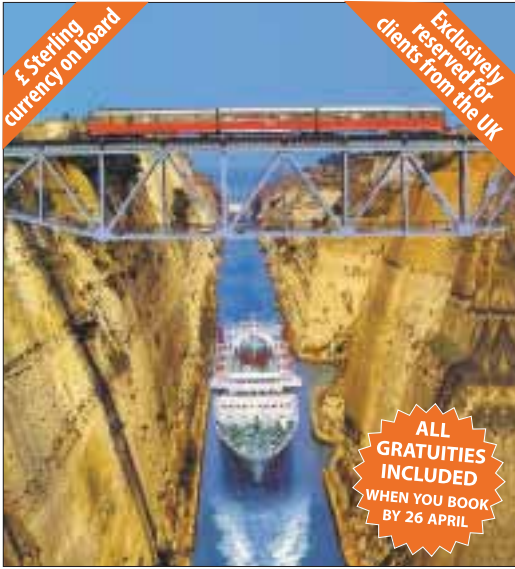
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- 11-night Full-Board cruise sharing a standard inside cabin - upgrades available
- All transfers abroad

Floriade & Amsterdam River Cruise

Escorted Rail-Cruise from London, *Ebbsfleet & Ashford
5 days full board
From £599pp
Quote FL6-KOS

14 to 18 June, 2012

Come with us on a relaxing river cruise to Holland's Floriade Horticultural Expo held just once every decade.

From Amsterdam we cruise along peaceful Dutch waterways to Rotterdam via Utrecht, Nijmegen, Cuijk (for Floriade) and Dordrecht.

Our floating hotel is the charming ms Alegria, with just 50 en suite cabins, a large, cosy lounge with bar, a library and restaurant. To join the ship, we travel by train from London St Pancras (from Ebbsfleet & Ashford on request) to Amsterdam, via Brussels.

INCLUDED:

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Mamma Mia Party

For over 40s only
Pontin's Pakefield Holiday Village, Suffolk Coast
Self drive, 3 nights half board PLUS 99p Bar
Quote MP5-KOS
£99pp

25 to 28 May, 2012

Join us for a party where the name of the game is fun. We're reviving the 70s & 80s when Abba reigned supreme and their songs were on everyone's lips. We have organised a fabulous private party weekend featuring Mamma Mia the Movie and a top Abba Tribute Band playing live.

Pontin's Pakefield Holiday Village is situated on the Suffolk coast near Lowestoft. Enjoy a choice of bars and

eateries, an indoor swimming pool, snooker, pool, darts, short mat bowls, 9 hole pitch & putt, tennis court and more. The recently refurbished chalets are all single storey and situated on level ground, in landscaped grounds just a short stroll from the main facilities and car parks. All chalets have TV, tea/coffee making facilities, heating, double glazing, en suite bath/shower & toilet, bed linen & towels. Included meals are taken in the buffet-style cafeteria with views over the grounds to the sea.

INCLUDED:

- Mamma Mia the Movie
- Top Abba Tribute band
- 99p Bar from 6pm to 9pm every night
- Full Entertainment & Activities programme
- 3 dinners & 3 breakfasts
- 3 nights en-suite chalet accommodation with TV & tea/coffee-making facilities



Venice - the Grand Canal

Venice, Florence & Tuscan Highlights

Escorted Holiday by Rail from London, *Ebbsfleet & Ashford
10 days, half board
From £1149pp
Quote TM-KOS

17 September, 2012

Join us for an Italian odyssey which takes in extraordinary Venice and the best of Tuscany. Our journey begins at St Pancras famous Champagne Bar before an afternoon departure on Eurostar to Paris and

overnight train to Venice in a private 2 berth cabin. We then spend 1 night in Venice and 6 nights in Montecatini with all excursions included.

INCLUDED:

- Escorted throughout
- Champagne check-in at London St Pancras & afternoon departure (*from Ashford/Ebbsfleet on request)
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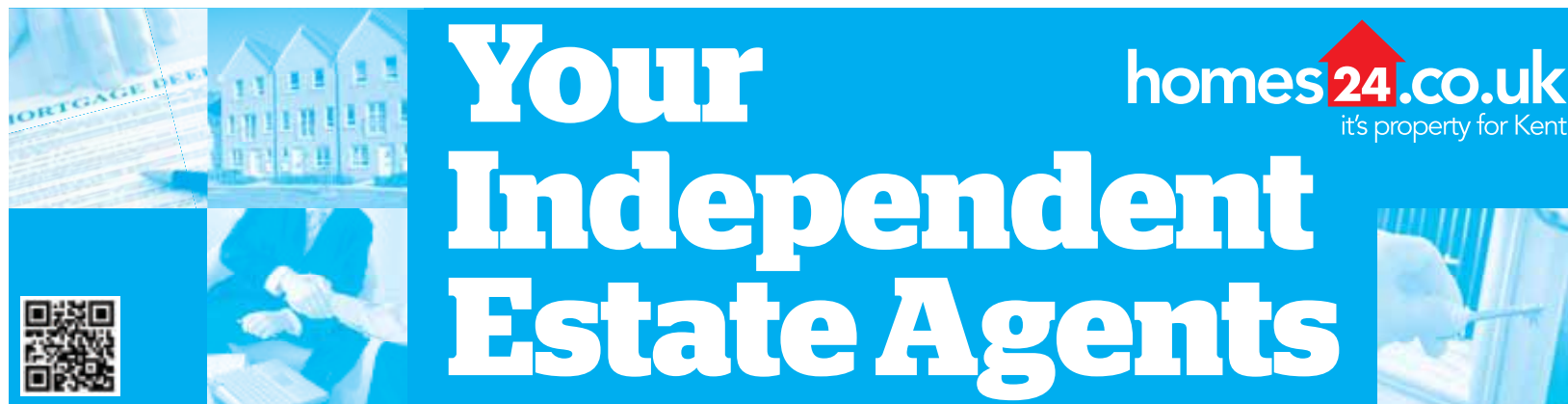
4 September, 2012

Bordered by Italy, Austria, Hungary and Croatia, Slovenia has a little of each in its character and landscapes. From the balmy Adriatic coast to stunning Lake Bled this former Yugoslavian state has amazing

scenic contrasts just a few hours apart. From our 4 Star hotel near Lake Bled we will discover Slovenia, including the capital Ljubljana, Piran on the coast and the Bohinj Railway - one of Europe's great scenic rail journeys.


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Quality and comfort on offer at The Maples

A FOUR-bedroom detached family home tucked away in The Maples, a quiet private cul-de-sac just off the popular Hoads Wood Gardens at the top end of Sandyhurst Lane in Ashford, has just come on to the market.

With a price range of £435,000-£465,000 the address at 32 Hoads Wood gardens is on offer from estate-agency Bradley Bishop.

Quality and comfort sum up what this home has to offer. The entrance hall is large and inviting, while the lounge stretches across the full width of the building to the rear, with three French doors bringing the outside in.

The kitchen, with its modern fitted units, granite worktops and overall quality finishes, is the hub of the home.

Upstairs are the master bedroom with its big en-suite bathroom and a further en-suite to bedroom two, making an ideal teenager's bedroom or guest room.

There are also two further good-size double rooms and a family bathroom. An added attraction is the facility for all rooms to have a Sky TV connection

The rear garden has its own courtesy gate to the woodlands on to which it backs; it is more than 145ft long and has a patio.

The surrounding countryside is attractive, with the village of Boughton Aluph and Challock Forest close by.

The nearest town is Ashford, about three miles away, which has excellent road and rail transport links, including the high-speed train to London St Pancras, which leaves twice an hour during the day and takes just 37 minutes to reach its destination.

■ To arrange a viewing, phone Bradley Bishop on 01233 627161.

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Hythe £445,000

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- Lovely gardens & within walking distance Hythe town centre



Seabrook £499,000

- 4 bedroom detached house in popular location
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- Walking distance high speed rail link



Hythe £395,000

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Status unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387049** ♀**TASHA** single working mum seeks light hearted man, 35-45 who also likes to enjoy life to the full for passion, romance and tic. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387047** ♀**60YR** old attractive female, seeks non drinker for dog walking, theatre, galleries, photography and companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386231****CARIBBEAN** young lady, 30, caring, genuine, seeks young Christian gent, 30-40 who is dedicated to God for friendship/relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386117** ♀**SUSIE** tactile 33yr old female who loves fast cars and motorbikes, seeks genuine male prepared to live life in the fast lane, 35-50yrs. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382163** ♀**ANNE** 60, Christian, WLTm similar person. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390496****AFFABLE** serene black attractive slim female 37 with a benevolent smile, loves reading nature, theatre, music WLTm genuine caring gent to share laughter/life. London **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 369411****JACQUELINE** 51, 5ft 8ins, green eyes, Auburn hair, likes theatre, walks, seeks honest, down to earth, sincere fun man for good times, friendship and nights out. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387539** ♀**ALICE** 18yr old tall blonde carefree student, looking for exciting male 18-30 for good times only. **ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387107** ♀**MANDY** 45, 5ft 6ins, attractive, blue/green eyes, trendy, seeks tall, N/S male of similar age with GSOH. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384555****TRIXI** looking for older respectful gentleman for fun times only. I am bubbly very fun and can accommodate. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388135****YVONNE** professional 35yr old female looking for someone to relax with, affectionate attractive and looking for same. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388111****SANDY** slim attractive green eyed female, loves romantic walks, animals, WLTm loving caring guy for tactile relationship and more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388109****CHRISTIAN** lady, seeks Christian man, 58 plus for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386565****JUNE** good looking divorced 40's female, bubbly romantic and looking for tic. Genuine replies only pls. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386301****46YR** old young, curvy single mum, easygoing, caring, GSOH, wants to live and love, seeks honest man, 35-55 for genuine relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387143** ♀**BERYL** 57, likes fishing, home life, seeks gent, 60-65. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382503****ANNE** romantic lady, 60's, looking for that special someone for LTR, late 50's or 60's with own car. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386225** ♀**DEBBIE** 5ft 8ins, brown hair/eyes, 5ft 8ins, slim, 47, likes gym, cinema, bowling, meals out, concerts, single mum, seeks male for friendship, maybe more **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390362****SLIM** tall, elegant, feminine, NS, solvent lady, young 50's, loves travel, red wine, seeks tall, sincere, military/professional gent of high calibre. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388071****NICOLE** lonely and looking for love, cultured, intelligent, beautiful, creative and looking for sincere male for mature loving ltr. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388145****JACQUELINE** blue eyed attractive petite blonde, fit/active and social looking to meet similar kind male for ltr and more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388137****LADY** 70's, easygoing, likes most things, medium build, seeks gent for friendship, car owner. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387743****LADY** 70's, easygoing, likes most things, medium build, seeks gent for friendship, car owner. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386331****SENSUAL** 32yr old professional with no time to have a relationship, seeks similar understanding male for compatible discreet relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386309****TRACY** 39, fun blue eyed busty blonde, a little dizzy at times but a big bundle of fun, WLTm professional male for good times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384045****JO** 21yr old single mum who loves nights out, seeks understanding male for adult fun and more. **ACA. Can accommodate. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384043****48YR** old female, seeks tall, caring male in the West Sussex area. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388974****WENDY** cuddly 52yr old romantic, GSOH, N/S, likes reading, cinema, meals out, seeks male, 45-55 with GSOH to be my Knight in shining armour. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389614****DEBBIE** 5ft 8ins, short dark hair/eyes, slim, daughter, easygoing, likes dinner, cinema, bowling, gym, music, travel, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386337****SUE** young looking vivacious female with great sense of humour, OHAC, independent, interesting and sensual, seeking single tactile male. **ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386275****BECKY** 34 single mum of one, GSOH, employed with OHAC, fun to be with and very loving, WLTm Mr Right if he is out there? **ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386305****JENNY** very feminine attractive mature classy female with beautiful blue eyes, looking for male to enjoy plenty of laughs and get to know. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386303****PETITE** French lady, likes to be spoiled/pampered, seeks gent, 40-55 for discreet liaisons. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379579****GWEN** lovely dark haired, dark blue eyed slim sensual female with GSOH, WLTm male 35-50 for fun dates and romantic nights in together. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380443****CARMEL** blonde brown eyed girl, employed with OHAC, likes meals out, walking, looking for loving relationship with caring down to earth male. **ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380001****DEBS** 38 green eyed sophisticated blonde, attractive size 12, not looking for anything long term or steady just fun with intelligent male, 30-60yrs. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386273****51YR** old lady, seeking fun loving, genuine man for socialising and LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389840** ♀**KEELY** blonde 18yr old, blue eyes size 10, busty, stays at home too much and looking for casual fun with older male with OHAC. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385377****FEMALE** 48, kind, caring, bubbly, GSOH, likes meals out, pubs, cinema, cooking, seeks male, 40-50 with similar interests for friendship/relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383787****MARION** 38 slim, sporty, fun with good personality, loves travel, holding hands and caring for people. Seeks genuine male, no time wasters. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383159** ♀**VAL** compassionate outgoing female with a big heart and no preconceptions just looking for love with similar minded male. Call me. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383155** ♀**ATTRACTIVE** lady 45, medium build, fair hair, 5ft 2ins, seeks kind gent for companionship and friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383987** ♀**TARA** 5ft 6ft big blue eyed babe with a cute smile looking for older sugar daddy who is not afraid to spend a little to live a lot! Good times always guaranteed. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381731****NIAMH** slim attractive female, well travelled and body confident, seeking mature male who can handle a real woman. Or at least thinks he can. **ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384051** ♀**EMMA** pretty 30yr old Scottish lassie, new to the area and looking for some nice company, give me a call and we can take it from there. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385373****LYNDA** very attractive attached female, own transport and willing to travel, seeking similar natured male for extra circular activities. Must be discreet. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386563** ♀**KERRY** blonde blue eyed cultured lady, very genuine, caring, seeking caring natured male 45-58 for loving romance. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386649** ♀**HI** I'm Jane a 40yr old divorcee with 3 children, looking to fall in love again, seeks genuine, confident, very tactile male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386643** ♀**TINA** new to this and a bit nervous, lonely blue eyed 30yr old looking for male companion 30-50yrs. Status unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386625** ♀**SARA** 31 tall sexy and single, lovely green eyes, outgoing and social WLTm tall down to earth stable male for poss ltr. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386623** ♀**LISA** blonde hair, blue eyes, medium build, seeks fun loving, adventurous male, 45-52 for friendship, fun and who knows what else. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389020****BECKY** single 29yr old slim female, attractive, blonde, seeking good times with fun male who does not take life too seriously. Status/age unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383057****CHRIS** outgoing secretary, enjoys nice wine, romantic meals, looking for easygoing male to get to know and just see what develops. **ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383055** ♀**KIRSTY** 44yr going on 24yrs, sensual, attractive and in need of spoiling, and attention, seeks likeminded male for fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383051** ♀**TIA** 38yr old attractive blonde female, likes keep fit, home life, looking for similar genuine romantic for sensual relationship and good friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382081** ♀**WENDY** enjoys most things in life and is up for anything, whatever you fancy? I'm willing to give it a go! Call me. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382079** ♀**SARAH** 40's black hair, blue eyes, curvy, outgoing, N/S, likes meals out, cosy nights in, seeking tall, good looking male who loves a laugh. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388626****GEM** 24, slim blonde with blue eyes, single mum of one, broadminded and extremely easygoing, WLTm genuine male for LTR. Dads welcome. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385369****DIANE** single fit female, no children, OHAC, lots of free time, looking for a nice man to get to know and hopefully fall in love with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385351****RUTH** slim funny 18yr old brunette who loves cuddles seeks genuine guy for friendship leading to more. **ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385349****MEL** tall curvy attractive blonde, loves cosy nights in with a good bottle of wine, looking for some male attention and company. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379971****MAVE** young 73yr old widow, attractive, seeks tall, solvent gent, 65-75 to share good times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387899****LOOKING** to start the New Year of with a bang? Faye open minded 20yr old female just looking for fun times. Call me. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383045****HANNAH** 34 slim petite green eyed single mum with many interest, seeking discreet older male for mutual companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379977****SAM** 35, green eyed voluptuous, busty, loves football, theatre, travel, red wine, WLTm older male up to 65yrs for sensual relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379975****KERRY** 32yr old single mum of one, ready to move on with a new relationship, WLTm genuine male for flirty dates, text fun and more. Pls Call. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383901** ♀**JO** discreet 28yr old Auburn haired beauty looking for a bit of fun back in her life, seeks male to make me smile again. Age/looks/status unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383899** ♀**CAROL** alone on a Saturday night with a bag of chips, what am I doing? Sick of being single and looking for a male who can handle a good woman. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383119****ANN** slim blonde female, lovely blue blue eyes, great personality, outgoing, employed, OHAC, WLTm caring 40's male for adult fun and more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382085** ♀

A N G E L A

Scottish female, dark hair, green eyes, attractive, new to the area, no ties, OHAC, seeks gentle male for good times and more. Looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382227**KATIE** pretty slim blonde female, 35, N/S, likes pubs, countryside, meals out, seeking outgoing male for fun times, maybe relationship. Interested? **ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382205****CLARE** petite dark haired attractive female with lots of interests, seeking male for mutual companionship. Must be respectful and discreet. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382203****LISA** attractive dental nurse 25, been hurt in the past, looking for romantic male, 35-50yrs for loving friendship, maybe more. Looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382201****KATHY** 49, seeking male of similar age for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389362****48YR** old female, slim, looking for tall Knight in shining armour for relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389348****ANGELA** divorced lady, seeking companion to share days out, cinema, meals etc. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387350**

Men Seeking

Ladies Text n' Chat. Text in now and chat to local people.**Send : CHAT601 To : 65125 (T&C's below)****57YR** old gent, kind, romantic, likes walks, travel, looking for woman, preferably Pompey fan. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388447****MALE** 56, broadminded, passionate, easygoing, seeks lady, 48-65 wanting, passion and exciting friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388417****GENUINE** sincere male, 50, slim, blue eyes, dark hair, fun loving, good company, seeks female to rediscover a full life. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385631****MALE** 56, tall, slim, N/S, up for anything, seeks NS female for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385045****GOOD** looking fun, friendly, easygoing, sincere male, 46, slim-medium build, hazel eyes, dark hair, nice smile, seeks attractive, caring lady for relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385923** ♀**ADE** early 40's, 5ft 10ins, medium build, looking for lady for mutual fun and good times together. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384495** ♀**TOM** 51, likes keep fit, walks, meals out, seeks female of similar age for fun and good times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384169** ♀**LOVELY** tall slim nurse, very caring and fun but missing that va-va-voom! Seeks adventurous male who's up for fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374159** ♀**KAREN** 58, 5ft 6ins, medium build, fun loving, romantic, caring, extrovert, seeks male of similar age for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387902****TALL** long haired brunette, slim attractive, big green eyes, WLTm gent for mutual companionship, maybe leading to more. Age/looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 376559****SUE** long blonde haired slim but curvy pretty female, loves to live life to the full, good wine shopping, seeking genuine male 48-60yrs for adult friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380853****SINGLE** dad, 6ft 1ins, forgotten what life is, help! **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390540** ♀**MALE** 5ft 9ins, brown hair, muscular, seeking well spoken Sussex pretty female, under 46, N/S for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390490****STEVE** 48, good looking, single, likes theatre, nights out, history, seeks lady, 35-55. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390476** ♀**TONY** 5ft 9ins, dark hair, slim-medium build, outgoing, seeks female, 25-40. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390468** ♀**DAVID** 58, professional, slim looking for lady for discreet relationship. East Surrey. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 367157****RECLUSIVE** unconventional artist, 57, wishing for sensual, sensitive, mature lady to share quiet but exciting mutual natural pleasures in rural seaside home. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387285****EASYGOING** 60's gent, seeks young at heart 50 something lady to share the good things in life. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384081**

Gay Seeking

IF YOU'RE LOOKING to connect and chat with other men look no further TXT: **GAY601 to 65125** for 3 chat matches, fun and safe service. (T&C's below)**Go online - www.localgaydate.co.uk****SMALL** N/S male, early 50's, seeks larger older male for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388386****RICHARD** 38, ex model, passive, likes horses, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379097** ♀**BI** guy submissive, late 40's, slim, seeks older dominant guy to yield to. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389256****33YR** old bi male, seeking discreet male of similar age for fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389236****Contact members by phone:****0906 515 7112 0906 515 7114 0844 800 1188****Contact members by TEXT!**

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First **GEAR** MOTORING NEWS

- Toyota ups the hybrid ante with larger Prius
- Skoda launches new ultra-eco city car Citigo
- Jaguar continues its dynasty with the F-Type



Mercedes to take on the '4x4 posers' with stylish M-Class

Driving

carsforkent.co.uk

By Sam Davison
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

AFTER some years in the creative doldrums, nobody could say that Citroën isn't now back to its maverick best.

We've had the C5 attack German premium marques with its teutonic styling, the DS3 take a pop at BMW's lucrative Mini sales, and there's even a C6 luxury model evoking memories of the original DS series from 1955-75 – it isn't a great seller but has focused attention on the brand.

And now we have the latest new-age DS, taking on premium SUVs like the Audi Q3 and BMW X1 and X3 – what will the French marque have a go at next?

Even then it's not easy to define the new DS5, since it looks a different car from all angles: it's tall, but it's long – and yet it's shorter than you think.

The bit we can nail down is that it costs from £22,400, ranging up to £32,200 for the flagship DSport spec with Hybrid4 powertrain – counterpart to sister brand Peugeot's 3008 Hybrid4 that's also just hit the market.

The hybrid format (from £27,600) brings the DS5 into conflict with all-wheel drive SUVs by virtue of the electric power to rear wheels – the front ones are powered conventionally by the car's 163bhp 2.0-litre diesel engine.

Citroën obviously fancies winding up the Germans again by appealing particularly to image-conscious company car user choosers who also have an eye on their tax bill.

They will note that the Hybrid4's dual powertrain can combine to deliver sparkling performance and traction, while CO2 emissions below 100g/km exempt it from both road tax and the London Congestion Charge, while business users pay a Benefit-in-Kind tax rate of just 10 per cent.

On the other hand, there are some good powertrains to choose from the cheaper models: the powerful and smooth 200bhp THP petrol unit developed jointly by Peugeot-Citroën and BMW, plus two diesel options.

And while the eye-catching exterior might, nevertheless, divide opinion you can be sure that few people will dislike the luxurious aviation-inspired cabin.

This adaptable five-door also has five full-seats and up to 465 litres of boot space, with hi-tech goodies such as keyless access and start, a colour head-up display and a new Lane Departure Warning System (LDWS) for when the driver gets sleepy on long journeys – a potential life-rt-saver.

Perhaps not surprisingly for such an innovative car, the DS5 had already picked up several awards ahead of launch, including Top Gear magazine's Family Car of the Year award.

It also secured the maximum five-star Euro NCAP crash test rating and Citroën expects the car to appeal most to men over 35 who are "typically energetic business leaders – sophisticated, style conscious and early adopters of new technologies."



CITROËN DS5

- Price: £22,400-£32,200
- Driving appeal: To be tested
- Image: ★★★★★
- Space: ★★★★★
- Value: ★★★★★
- Running costs: ★★★★★
- Reliability: ★★★★★
- How green?: ★★★★★
- Best rival: Nissan Qashqui

Flight of fancy as aviation style takes off with latest Citroën DS



MAKING ITS MARQUE: Citroën's new DS5 continues the French car-maker's turnaround with stylish-looking cars that are now making a real impact in the motoring industry

/// DON'T LIKE ///

... after some years in the creative doldrums, nobody could say that Citroën isn't now back to its maverick best.

/// NOT SURE ///

... the car will retain its value on the used market. It might be a premium car, but Citroën is not perceived as a premium brand.

/// REALLY LIKE ///

... the DS5's defiance of categorisation. It does so with real style and class, unlike Renault's ill-fated Avantime and Vel Satis of the Noughties.



First GEAR

MOTORING NEWS



Prius larging it across Europe

TOYOTA aims to step up the competition in the hybrid race by launching the first full hybrid seven-seat MPV seen in Europe. It will do so by extending the successful Prius petrol-electric hybrid brand; the newcomer is called the Prius+ is available to order now, with deliveries starting in July. Prices start from £26,195 and the key version will be road tax exempt.



Citigo means 'green' for go

SKODA says its all-new ultra-economical Citigo city car is on sale from Friday, June 1, priced from £7,630. Based on the Up model produced by parent brand VW, the Czech version is more keenly priced to uphold Skoda's status as a value champion. With a maximum five-star crash safety rating from Euro NCAP, it is also available as a three or five-door.



Jag confirms baby roadster

JAGUAR has confirmed its stunning C-X16 two-seater concept will be turned into a production model, due out in mid-2013. As the F-Type – slightly disguised in the picture here – it will finally advance a sports car dynasty made famous by the 1960s vintage E-Type roadster and coupé. Like its predecessor, the F-Type will launch as a two-seat convertible.

Three-door Veloster opens new door for coupé buyers

By Sam Davison
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

HYUNDAI left the coupé sector in 2009, after a series of models, latterly delivering style plus fun, to go with the marque's familiar value. However, with the Korean brand now riding high in the UK public eye through acclaimed mainstream 'i' models, like the newly-launched second generation i30, it was perhaps natural that Hyundai would revisit the glamour of the coupé sector. It has done so by, typically, trying to offer more for your money than perceived rivals like the racy VW Scirocco or three-door coupé versions of standard hatchbacks such as the eye-catching Vauxhall Astra GTC. With the Veloster (from £17,995), you get looks as arresting as the VW and Vauxhall, plus an extra side door, and the usual Hyundai value for money, high specification and five-year unlimited mileage warranty. That additional door – kerbside for rear passengers – could be a winner for some buyers with young children, who might want a racy motor, but don't want the hassle of tipping front seats or leaning right into the back to belt up their kids. It's also a unique proposition on the UK market; the only rival is the Mini Clubman, which also has a single rear side door, but on the wrong side – who wants their children exiting on the opposite side to the pavement? The Veloster's extra door is nicely integrated into the car's profile and, since you never view both sides together, you'll never spot the difference anyway – though the curious will note that the rear side windows and centre pillars are different. The overall style of the car is low slung with a particularly rakish rear roofline that, as in any coupé, compromises rear headroom, while legroom is also fairly tight. Still, there is a decent size boot and ultimate

HYUNDAI VELOSTER 1.6GDI DCT: PRICE £19,245



FACT FILE

Image:★★★★

Space:★★★★

Value:★★★★

Reliability:★★★★

How green?:★★★★

Road tax:£135/year

Best rival:Vauxhall Astra GTC

Kent dealers:

Motorline:

Canterbury01227 817555

Maidstone01622 624070

Hyundai:

Tunbridge Wells01892 520026

AN ADDED BONUS: The Veloster's additional door will appeal to those buyers who might want a racy car but don't want the hassle of tipping front seats or leaning into the back to strap in their children

load area with seats folded and the Veloster has much else to recommend inside too; the brand continues its seemingly unstoppable rise in interior quality and design, although it would be nice to see some real brushed alloy highlights rather than coloured plastic versions. The big standard fit central information/entertainment screen is well thought out and the dashboard controls are logical and nicely to hand, so the car offers coupé-style without great compromises in practicality – many canny buyers will like that a lot, in conjunction with a tempting price and that Hyundai warranty. You also get lots for your money: our entry level 1.6 GDi model comes with alloys, rear spoiler, tyre pressure monitoring, eco drive indicator, reversing sensors and more that you wouldn't expect. Where the car does have a problem is with its name: Veloster implies, well, velocity and this car

has none of the coupé variety in its present format. A 138bhp 1.6-litre petrol unit is the sole engine choice – for now, I hope – and it doesn't really help the car live up to its moniker. Our test car also happened to be the six-speed DCT auto version, which is slightly slower too though fuel economy is better than the standard six-speed manual car. By comparison, the Scirocco and Astra GTC line-ups include lively small turbocharged petrol units that deliver the performance to go with styling, and that's just what the Veloster lacks currently. The good news is the Veloster's chassis has the potential to take the extra power; it keeps its composure and a flat stance on corners and only the lifeless steering detracts from a decent drive. That said, many buyers won't worry about any of this when coupé looks can be had with such a practical bonus as that third side door.

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M-Class 3G aims to attack 'poser 4x4s'

By Sam Davison

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

IT IS perhaps a sign of our straitened times that even the well-heeled target market for the new generation Mercedes-Benz M-Class needs to be tempted by launch offers.

So those placing orders before the end of June will not only get versions of the newcomer laden with extra equipment, but also the option to upgrade to M-B's acclaimed onboard COMAND internet connectivity system for £750 – a saving of £1,380 and likely to add considerably to resale values.

For now, just two versions of the new M-Class are offered: the ML 250 Bluetec (£43,235) and ML 350 Bluetec (£46,335) diesels. Both feature seven-speed automatic gearboxes plus emissions/fuel saving start/stop.

This is the third-generation M-Class in a series that began in 1998, and M-B's designers have cleverly highlighted the genealogy by retaining the asymmetric rear side pillar, while building in more of the sharpness and creases highlighting its latest models.

This type of evolution rather than revolution is vital at this end of the market, where even wealthy buyers don't want to see residuals poleaxed by a markedly different new model.

What M-B can do though, and is making a point of, is to try and distance the new car from the 'gas guzzler' image that has dogged the once soaring 4x4/SUV market.

So both engines carry a package of the German premium marque's BlueEfficiency features,



meeting stringent EU6 emissions regulations not due until 2014.

The four-cylinder 204bhp ML 250 Bluetec also offers a combined fuel consumption of 44.8 mpg with CO2 emissions from 165 g/km, figures for a car of this scale that would have astonished just a few years ago.

The 258bhp V6-engined ML 350 Bluetec is not too shabby either with figures of 39.2 mpg and 189 g/km respectively.

The other hidden upgrade M-B wants to highlight, is the car's much-improved on-road performance; the M-Class has always been one of those big 4x4s that struts its stuff off-road



but tended to be woolly on a challenging road.

However, this latest version aims to take on 'poser-4x4s' like the BMW X5 and Range Rover Sport, with improved on-road performance while retaining proper off-road ability – this will put pressure on the X5 particularly, since it is far less at home than the Merc on a muddy field.

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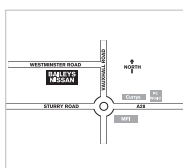
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